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PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLES H. CLEAVES

THE OLD CASTLE  
BUILT IN 1713



PIGEON COVE  
ITS EARLY SETTLERS  
& THEIR FARMS

1702-1840



*Allen Chamberlain*

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## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

STATEMENTS herein are based upon public records except where a foundation upon tradition is admitted. The records consulted are those of the Commoners, of the Town Meetings, of the Selectmen, and of the Assessors, also the published Vital Records, all of Gloucester; also the deeds and probate papers recorded at the Registry at Salem; the United States Census of 1790; the Federal tax on dwellings of 1798, the original of which is in the library of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston; available Town of Gloucester tax records from 1784 on; and certain maps and plans filed with the State Archives at Boston. The compiler is also indebted to Mr. Paul A. Polisson, City Engineer of Gloucester, and to Mr. Alvin S. Brown, Jr., Town Clerk of Rockport, for permission to examine their plan files, and to Mrs. Alonzo L. Whitney of Pigeon Cove for permission to examine historical papers in her collection, as well as for generous assistance in genealogical matters and the interpretation of deeds. Another source of information is the History of the Town of Gloucester (1860), and Notes and Additions, Part First, to that work (1876), both by Dr. John J. Babson. Through the courtesy of Mr. Foster H. Saville, Curator of the Sandy Bay Historical Society and Museum, documents and publications in his custody were made available for study.

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## *Old Style Chronology*

**T**HROUGHOUT these records instances will be noted where the years are “double dated,” as the saying is, as, for example, February 27, 1687/88, when the Town Meeting granted the Pigeon Cove six-acre lots. This merely represents the confusion which existed wherever English rule extended until the year 1752, at which time the Gregorian calendar went into effect in accordance with an Act of Parliament of 1750.

Under the old Roman or Julian calendar March 25 was New Year's Day. Under the calendar decreed by Pope Gregory XIII in the sixteenth century, and which had been in effect in many countries since that time, January 1 became the first of the year. Thus Scotland, before it became a part of Great Britain, adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1599. In England, however, the “new style,” as it was called, remained long in abeyance, partially owing to religious scruples, and in a measure perhaps to the traditional English conservatism toward all innovations.

As will be noted by anyone who examines the older Gloucester records, months were for some time recorded, not by name but by number, as “the 5th of the last m<sup>th</sup> 1644,” meaning, according to the old style calendar, February 5, 1644/45, or “the first of the 11<sup>th</sup> m<sup>th</sup>,” meaning January 1.

A little later the English began to call the months by name, and this necessitated the practice of double dating from January 1 through March 24, until the Act of Parliament established the Gregorian calendar as the standard for England and all its possessions.





## *The Cape Common and Its Forest*

WHEN early Gloucestermen had occasion to refer to the northern and eastern shores they called the region The Cape. This designation seems to have embraced the coast north-erly from Hodgkins Cove at Bay View through Lanesville to Halibut Point, and southerly and easterly around Sandy Bay. Except for the rough fields and pastures that had been cleared in connection with the farming hamlet now known as Dogtown, the entire area to the east and north was covered with the forest primeval, and was owned in common by the townsmen. There is ample evidence to show that this was an unusually fine piece of woodland even for those days, and the original Proprietors' Records clearly indicate that Gloucester appreciated its value as a public asset. Within less than a month after the incorporation of the Town in 1642 the voters began to place restrictions upon the cutting of the timber from those common lands, and these regulations were continued and stiffened during the succeeding fifty years or more.

The first recorded regulation was passed in June 1642. It forbade the sale of any timber out of town without permission under a penalty of ten shillings in the pound. About three years later, February 5, 1644/45, a Proprietors' meeting caused it to be recorded that "It is ordered that whoever hee bee that shall from this date forward cutt downe anie Tymber trees without leave shall paie the vallue of 10<sup>s</sup> per tree." Also, to avoid any claim that the tree used had been found already cut by some other person and abandoned, it was forbidden to utilize any down tree without leave. Even the cutting of hoop poles without permission was prohibited, and a fine of three shillings a hundred was the penalty for a violation. Before permitted timber could be removed after cutting the "overseer" was required to measure it to ascertain that the permitted quantity had not been exceeded. The penalty for overcutting was one-half of the permitted amount.



On March 22, 1649/50 it was voted that all timber grants should be recorded as to place of cutting and quantity desired, and that a time limit for the cutting should be fixed. The permittee was required to pay a recording fee of four pence, and the cutting of unrecorded timber carried a penalty of fifteen shillings for every tree. The townspeople were allowed to cut twenty cords of wood a year per family for domestic use, but care seems to have been taken that no one exceeded his limit.

By 1667 it would appear that the outside market for Cape Ann cordwood had grown to considerable proportions, and it was voted that cutting should be permitted along the eastern shore from Brace's Cove, northerly around the cape to Plum Cove, for a distance of 660 feet back from the sea. During the following year there seems to have been the fear that, as those shore fronts were cleared, outsiders might attempt to squat upon them. A vote was then passed prohibiting such settling. It would appear that wood cutting became unusually active about this time, and that the competition among the operators may have led to price cutting. The answer of the Town to this was a vote "that there should be no cordwood sold out of town under three shillings and six pence per cord." The townsmen also began to fear that their timber supply was in some danger of becoming exhausted. As a hedge against this possibility some forestry minded person prevailed upon the Town Meeting to pass a vote on January 4, 1670/71 that whenever any trees were "marked with a necks" (meaning an X) they were to be left for timber or to bear "ackhorns" (acorns), and were not to be cut by anyone under penalty of a fine of ten shillings a tree.

Just why the Gloucester people lost their interest in forest conservation cannot be known. Perhaps it was because they saw out of town lumbermen making what appeared to be a good deal of money out of their purchases of stumpage rights, and felt that they might as well be given a chance to get some of the business themselves. The fact is that by 1723 the common woods had all been parcelled out in severalty among the commoners. This procedure began when the fore shore from Lane's Cove, then known as Flatstone Cove, to Sandy Bay Brook, the present-day Mill Brook, was allotted in so-called six-acre parcels to all



native males then "upward of one and twenty years of age." Number one lot was at the eastern side of Lane's Cove, and lot 82 was at Mill Brook just south of King Street. Theoretically these lots were 198 feet wide on the sea and ran back about a quarter of a mile into the land. As a matter of fact they varied considerably in width and depth, and some were triangular rather than rectangular in form, so that it is impossible to accurately determine where all the lots lay. From the descriptions in the grants, and in subsequent deeds covering some of the lots, certain dividing lines and corners can be fairly definitely determined. Thus lot 21 is known to have been bounded east by Folly Cove; the meadow through which flows the Norwood Mill Brook west of Granite Street at Folly Cove was lot 24; lots 26 to 35 inclusive abutted south on Gott Avenue and on a line thence easterly to the sea; lots 50 to 53 inclusive abutted upon the north shore of Pigeon Cove; the corner common to lots 53 and 54 appears to have been in front of 144 Granite Street, the office of the Cape Ann Tool Company; the line between lots 59 and 60 is the boundary between 139 and 141 Granite Street; the south side of Landmark Lane divides lots 62 and 63; the south side of Rowe Lane divides lots 70 and 71.

These grants were authorized at a Town Meeting on February 27, 1687/88, and the boundaries were set by the "Lot Layers" in the following July. It seems reasonable to surmise that many of these areas had been cleared of their tree growth prior to this, under that permissive vote of 1667 previously referred to, and that a goodly part of the remainder were cleared between 1688 and 1700. This idea is based upon the fact that some of the lots were bought from the original grantees by men, some of them from out of town, who had been previously engaged in lumbering in other parts of the cape. In 1708 the Town similarly disposed of a large portion of the Southern Woods between Long Cove (Rockport harbor) and Loblolly Cove, and between the sea and the eastern end of Cape Pond. Practically all that was then left was given out in 1723. That last division took in the land west of the 1708 woodlots, and everything between the 1688 shore lots, Great Hill and Dogtown.

Here and there an owner continued the sylvicultural practices

earlier laid down by the commoners for the management of their joint property, so that as recently as 1873 it was possible for Rev. Henry C. Leonard to record in his "Pigeon Cove and Vicinity" that the region between Long Beach and Cape Pond, several hundred acres in extent, "is a grand wood but slightly damaged by the ruthless axe." Since then indiscriminate cutting and repeated fires have invaded that section, until but little growth of any commercial consequence remains.

The original forest of Cape Ann was greatly superior in tree species to the woods on the adjacent mainland. For some reason the woodlands of the cape, even today, consist in the main of trees such as are normally native to Berkshire County and to southern and central New Hampshire. Professional foresters who have walked with the writer in the cape woods have invariably remarked upon the fact that here is what is known as a "northern hardwood type" of forest. The old forest was by no means made up entirely of hardwood trees. It was unquestionably a mixed forest, as it is in a measure today, but some of the species that probably were originally here, such as red spruce and not impossibly fir among the softwoods, and rock maple, buttonwood (sycamore), hickory, aspen, black birch, and basswood among the hardwoods, have practically disappeared. The house, wharf and ship builders of Boston and Salem knew the high quality of that old growth cape timber, and large quantities went to those markets until the supply was exhausted.



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## *The Earliest Highways*

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### CHURCH GREEN TO SANDY BAY 1707

WHEN the first farms around "the head of the Cape" were settled, soon after 1700, there was no public road between there and the most northerly settlements at Goose Cove and Annisquam. It seems evident, however, from certain incidental remarks in the records of some of the earliest layouts of roads across the cape, that there had been trails, or perhaps rough sled roads, which had existed for some years previously. The first official town way to any part of the Rockport shore was laid out June 2, 1707 from the Meeting House Green (Washington and Poplar Streets, Gloucester) on the lines now followed by Gloucester Avenue, the disused old Rockport road to Beaver Dam farm, thence by Main Street over Great Hill, and so to the sea near Front Beach, where Richard Tarr's land lay. That this road followed, in a general way at least, an older used route is made evident by the statement that it was to run "where the way is now and hath been for many years Last past made use of." Richard Tarr had been living on the south bank of Davison's Run or Sandy Bay Brook, now Mill Brook, for about seventeen years, and this was in part, no doubt, a rough road that he had swamped out for his own use. On the Gloucester Avenue end it was probably much older, for it led to the first mill on Alewife Brook, which is said to have been built about 1635.

### GOOSE COVE TO HALIBUT POINT 1707

THE next road to the east led from "the gravel pit by the grist mill" at Goose Cove northerly by way of Annisquam, Bay View, Lanesville, and Folly Cove to Samuel Gott's house, now standing on Gott Avenue. That road was laid out October 21,

1707. The record description begins at the eastern end "at the southwest corner bound of Samuel Gott's land" next William Andrews' land. Thence it ran westerly "along by the head of Charles James' lot" (*i.e.*, lot 30) to William Woodberry's dwelling house. To that point it ran on the lines of the present-day Gott Avenue. Woodberry's house was at what is popularly known as Babson's Corner on Granite Street. Thence it ran over a corner of Woodberry's land "where it now goeth" to land of Samuel Lane. His farm lay between the Norwood Mill Brook and the present town line. The road passed along the northern end of Lane's land "between his bounds and the water-side," then on common land, meaning probably Folly Cove town landing, to John Stone's land and Thomas Wise's dwelling house. It is suspected that Wise may have lived in the old house still standing on the southerly side of Washington Street, number 1261, a little east of Folly Cove Brook. It then ran on the lines of Washington Street (Langsford Street did not come into being until about 1850), passing over Robert Standford's land and along the side of John Lane senior's land. The latter owned three or four lots next east of Lane's Cove. The road then passed the house of Samuel Sargent and continued on the lines of Washington Street to Hodgkins Cove at Bay View. From there it continued, still on Washington Street, between the homes of Lieutenant John Davis and Benjamin Harraden, and so to Joseph Harraden's, Benjamin York's and John Butman's. That road departed from what is now Washington Street near the Annisquam church and followed the lines of Bennett Street to the point where the brook enters the northeast end of Goose Cove.

#### BEGINNINGS OF SOUTH STREET 1708

IN 1708 the Town laid out a road from Long Cove, now Rockport Harbor, to Starknaught Harbor beach landing, now Little Good Harbor beach, and so to Gloucester. The description seems a little jumbled, but it is clearly the beginning of Mt. Pleasant and South Streets to Cape Hedge, Long Beach, Brier Neck and thence to Meeting House Green, very likely via Witham Street and the "Old Rockport Road" and Gloucester Avenue.



THE beginning of the highway now known as Granite Street, from Gott Avenue to Knowlton's Corner, and as Beach Street thence to the present-day Mill Brook at Front Beach, is found in the layout of March 19, 1715/16, confirmed in Town Meeting on June 23, 1719. By that time four farms had been settled between The Garrison House (188 Granite Street) and the quarry bridge. Obviously this road had been opened by these settlers and this town action was merely its acceptance as a public way. The official description begins at "the highway that leads to the now dwelling house of Samuel Gott at the gate by the now dwelling house belonging to the heirs of William Woodberry deceased," meaning, of course, the corner of Gott Avenue and Granite Street. Thence it ran southerly between the lands of Woodberry and Gott (they owned on opposite sides of Granite Street) to Joshua Norwood's fence. That point was at the southerly corner of the northern end of Curtis Street. Then it ran southeast over Norwood's land and easterly "before the said Joshua Norwood's now dwelling house." He then lived in The Garrison House. From there it ran southeasterly to the head of Pigeon Cove "to a basswood tree a corner bound between land of Norwood and Jethro Wheeler." That tree probably stood just north of the Cape Ann Tool Company's office building, 144 Granite Street, at the edge of the cove beach. It was stipulated that Wheeler was to maintain gates and bars, probably at his boundaries on the road. A deed of 1791 shows that there was a gate at his southern boundary in that year. From the basswood tree, which was said to be "at the entrance on the land of Jethro Wheeler," that being The Old Castle, the road ran south by west "by a great rock and by the west side of a ledge" to the boundary between Wheeler and the land of John Harris. This boundary is now the line between 139 and 141 Granite Street, and the ledge referred to was a great mass of granite that rose some twenty to thirty feet from the easterly edge of the road and covered the sites of 143 to 151 Granite Street. That ledge was quarried away about 1830.

From Gott Avenue to the basswood corner on the cove beach



no distances were given in the layout, but from the beginning of Wheeler's land south to Sandy Bay Brook the measurement across every man's land was given. (See distances in 1792 relocation following.) Wheeler's frontage was given as 72 rods (1,188 feet). Across Harris it was 45 rods (742 feet). Next came Daniel Gilbert's land (he was one of the partners of John Kimball & Co.), with a frontage of 84 rods (1,386 feet). That southerly corner of Gilbert was just south of the present Rowe Avenue. Gilbert abutted upon Samuel Stevens who owned a single lot, number 71, the width of which was given as 12 rods (198 feet), and that distance took the road just about to the quarry bridge. From there to Sandy Bay Brook all the land was owned by John Pool, who lived at the corner of King and Smith Streets. The distance across Pool was given as 164 rods (2,706 feet).

Seventy-six years later, July 17, 1792, the Selectmen "renewed the bounds" of this road and recorded a description on the Town books that differs slightly from the original in some of the distances across the various frontages. The probability is that the measurements made with a surveyor's chain, both in 1716 and in 1792, were not made precisely, though it might be presumed that the later survey would be more nearly exact than the earlier one.

The 1792 description began at James Norwood's house, which was at the corner of Gott Avenue, and ran southerly to "a gate where the Maple Tree formerly stood," three rods wide with a stone wall on each side. (Ancient deeds show that "the Maple Tree" stood on the easterly side of the road opposite Curtis Street at the northerly boundary of the Garrison House farm next William Andrews.) Thence it ran southerly by Moses Wheeler's stone wall on the westerly side of the road to the place "where the Basswood tree formerly stood at Pigeon Cove, an Original Bound between Joshua Norwood and Jethro Wheeler's Land." The distance from the maple tree to the basswood tree was given as 171 rods (2,821.5 feet). Thence the road ran through the land of Benjamin Wheeler (*i.e.*, across the Old Castle farm) to "a gate the Bounds between said Wheeler and Major John Row's Land" for a distance of 76 rods (1,254 feet).

Thence it ran through Rowe's land to "a gate the Bounds between Row's Land and the Land belonging to the Heirs of Mr. John Pool deceased" for a distance of 132 rods (2,178 feet). That point was just south of Rowe Avenue. Thence it ran to the northerly side of the beach (*i.e.*, Back Beach at Knowlton's Corner) 104 rods (1,716 feet), then over the beach 52 rods (858 feet), then to Sandy Bay Brook 28 rods (462 feet). The road was two rods wide except through Norwood, where it was three rods wide, and along the cove and along the beach, at which points no width was specified.



## *Pigeon Hill Sea Mark*

THE slightly five-acre field on the summit of Pigeon Hill, with the water supply standpipe located on its southwest corner, has an interesting history. Since 1929 it has been the property of the Town of Rockport, it having then been purchased from heirs of Ezra Eames for public park purposes. For more than a century previously it had been privately owned, but before that, from the incorporation of Gloucester until 1819, it had been the property of the Town of Gloucester, which had set it aside as a distinctive landmark for the guidance of mariners.

In another chapter will be found the story of the granting of the land along this shore in 1688 to the then inhabitants of the town, and of the gradual development of those lots into the earliest farms. Those early grants of only six acres each were narrow, about 200 feet wide on the sea front, and ran back for about 1,300 feet. Thus the westerly ends of the lots lying on Pigeon Hill did not quite touch the summit. After 1700, when the shore lots began to be settled upon and farmed, the Town granted relatively small contiguous areas west of the six-acre pieces to some of the settlers. By or before 1713 nearly all of the common land on all sides of Pigeon Hill had been passed over into private ownership.

The summit five acres, however, had never been parted with by the commoners. Whether the retention of this piece was by design or by inadvertence is not known. It would seem that perhaps they had had it in mind to keep this area in public ownership, for on March 5, 1712/13, it was voted at one of the Commoners' meetings that "all the Common that belongs to the town upon Piggon Hill is to lie comon still perpetually to bee for a sea mark, and that no trees shall bee cut down upon the land that is reserved for said sea mark upon the penalty of 20 shillings for every tree that shall be cut downe or caused to be cut downe, one half to the informer and one half to the poor of the town."

Captain Joseph Allin and John Pool were named to lay out the



reservation. The records show that five days later Allin and Pool stated that they had laid out "for a publick good" about 5 acres "bounded at the southeast corner by a red oak tree, being an old bound of one of the old lots which was formerly Captain Joseph Allin's (he had owned lots 62 and 64), thence northerly to a black oak marked on four sides and the broad arrow set on it on the south side, thence southwesterly to a white oak marked on four sides and the broad arrow on the east side, thence southeasterly to the first bound." The broad arrow, in this case carved on the trees, was the English mark of public ownership. This report was approved at a Commoners' meeting on October 6, 1713.

That description, with only three corners mentioned, produces a lot of triangular form. Whether this was actually the shape of the reservation, or whether Captain Allin and Mr. Pool inadvertently omitted one entire side from the description in the report, cannot be positively known. If it was an error it seems strange that this was not discovered by the Selectmen, or by some voter before approval was given at that October meeting.

About this time, or shortly thereafter, a group of men from Wenham and Ipswich, acting in partnership, acquired several lots on the southerly side of what is now Landmark Lane, and subsequently they also purchased three lots north of the Lane. These men and their successors, all non-residents, continued to own that hill property, which they used as a sheep and cattle pasture, until 1784. By that time there were 137 acres in the property, and it extended from the sea westerly to what is now the road to Johnson's quarry, then known as "the path from Sandy Bay to Jumper's." Those figures of acreage and extent were given in the deed by which the farm was conveyed by Barnabas Dodge, the last Wenham owner, to Major John Rowe in the fall of 1784. Not the slightest reference was made in that deed to the Town's Sea Mark reservation, which lay well within the farm boundaries. In fact the deed declared the property to be "free and clear of all encumbrances of what nature soever except the Town's highway." Non-residents though they were, it is obvious that the owners of the hill farm were not ignorant of the Town's title to the five summit acres. In three deeds that

passed among the partners, one in 1763 and two in 1769, the Land Mark was referred to as a boundary.

About 1782 someone in town had begun to suspect that it was time to assert an interest in this public property. It is apparent from subsequent records that the five-acre piece was not even fenced in, and that the three oak trees had been cut down in spite of the Town's earlier prohibition against their cutting. Perhaps someone had begun to fear that the owners of the surrounding land might seek to acquire title to the five acres through adverse possession. At all events the subject was brought up in Town Meeting in December, 1783, almost a year before Dodge sold the farm to Major Rowe.

The warrant for that meeting contained an article reading: "To know what the Town will order respecting land on Pigeon Hill to be appropriated as a land mark for the use of the public forever." Under that article it was voted "To choose four men to join the County Committee to make enquiry respecting the number of acres of land on Pigeon Hill that are appropriated as a perpetual sea mark for the use of the public."

At the Town Meeting the following April, 1784, a warrant article provided for the presentation of "the report of the committee respecting the land on Pigeon Hill that belongs to the Town, and to see if the Town will grant it to the public in order to have it fenced to preserve the trees there." Judging from a vote passed five years later it seems probable that someone had an idea that the plot should be given to the Commonwealth, since it was a mark useful to mariners in general. What was actually proposed by that committee will never be known, for the report was not preserved, and no action was taken on this subject by that Town Meeting.

Three years later, at the March Town Meeting, 1787, the warrant once again propounded the question as to what the Town would do about the land. No action was taken. Two years later still, 1789, the warrant proposed that several pieces of Town owned property be sold, among them the Pigeon Hill lot. This time the Town voted: "That the Selectmen endeavor to ascertain the Quantity of Land on Pigeon Hill belonging to this town and reserved for a Seamark and to see if this Commonwealth will



purchase the same for that purpose and if so to dispose of it on the best terms they can.”

The following year, 1790, the Town petitioned the General Court to sanction a lottery to raise funds sufficient for repairing the highways and for the building of a monument to serve as a sea mark on the hill. To this proposal the Legislature turned a cold shoulder. Six years later a lottery bill did pass, but it provided only for the repair of certain highways.

In all this time there is nothing to indicate that Major Rowe, the new owner of the Pigeon Hill farm, had any inclination to contest the Town's ownership in the five acres. It is somewhat apparent, however, that he was not at all sure as to the precise location of the sea mark lot. A detailed survey that he had made of his property in 1794 (a copy in the files of The Sandy Bay Historical Society) shows fence lines running across what is now the top field, but gives no indication of the existence of the sea mark area. Those fences may have been there when he bought the farm in 1784, or they may have been built by him subsequently. It is a bit singular, though, that the plan of the farm did not show the corners of the five-acre lot, for it had been again officially laid out and marked two years earlier.

That laying out was the result of a vote in the March Town Meeting in 1792 by which the Selectmen were directed to attend to it, and on July 17, 1792, it was entered on the Town Records that “The Selectmen agreeable to Directions from the Town went on Pigeon Hill and Laid out the five acres of Land formerly Reserved for a Sea Mark and bounded the same as follows Viz— Beginning at a Cedar post in the ground with stones round it Running thence South 81 degrees East twenty-six Rods to another Cedar Stump with Stones about it thence North five degrees West thirty-one Rods thence North eighty-one degrees West twenty-six Rods to another Cedar Stump with stones about it one Rod to the Southward of a Large Rock out of the Ground— thence South five degrees East thirty-one Rods to the bound begun at. N.B. The Variation of the Compass at this time is Seven Degrees and Twenty-one minutes.”

The above layout describes the field as it is at the present time (1940). Either the Selectmen of 1792 knew the location of the

original corners, and knew that the old triangular description was incorrect, or they admitted that the old location was doubtful and entered into an agreement with Major Rowe for a wholly new layout. The Town was entitled to five acres under the vote of 1713, and that is the area of the rhomboidal parcel defined in 1792.

Following the staking out of the sea mark in 1792, every annual Town Meeting during the next six years debated the question of what should be done to protect this land. Again it was proposed that the Town give it to the State if the latter would wall it in. When nothing came of that it was voted that the Selectmen should lease the lot for pasturage to someone who would wall it, and give the trees protection. Apparently no one could be found who wanted to rent on those terms. As a matter of fact the parcel was not readily accessible to anyone except to Major Rowe, within whose farm it lay, as there was no specified right of way to it from the highway. As the Major had plenty of pasturage of his own he probably was not interested in hiring more.

In April, 1798, the Town voted that the Selectmen should lay out a road from the highway, Granite Street, to the Sea Mark, and one month later \$200 was appropriated "to defray the expense of purchasing and walling in the road" to the Pigeon Hill land "and to fence in the land" itself. Within a month the Selectmen recorded the layout and in March, 1799, Major Rowe deeded to the Town a strip through his land from the Sea Mark down the hill to the highway, about 82 rods (1,353 feet) long and one and a half rods wide to a "great Rock," thence from two to two and a half rods wide to the highway. That "great Rock" was on the northerly side of the road a little less than two hundred feet above Granite Street. The Town thus acquired, not merely a right of way across the Rowe farm, but a fee simple title to the entire strip.

The annual Town Meeting warrant for that year, 1799, contained an article to see if the Town would lease the Sea Mark, or set out some young trees there, or petition for a monument to be built there. The meeting voted that it should be rented for pasturing, and that no existing trees should be cut. The subject



did not come up again until the March meeting in 1804, when it was voted to fence in one acre on the hill and to plant 200 poplar trees and 50 elms under the supervision of the Selectmen. No record has been found showing that the trees were actually planted.

Nothing further about Pigeon Hill was heard in Town Meeting during the next twenty years. Then at the annual Town Meeting in 1819 it was voted to authorize the Overseers of the Poor to buy and sell real estate on behalf of the Town. Almost immediately thereafter, on May 29, a deed was executed which conveyed the five acres "on the top of Pigeon Hill" to David Babson, William Fears and John Fears. They paid the Town \$525. The deed also included a small triangular piece at the Granite Street end of Landmark Road, thus reducing the width of that road at the lower end from two and a half rods to one rod. The road as a whole, from Granite Street to the summit, was not sold but remained Town property. Ten years later Babson and the Fears brothers deeded that triangle to Gustavus Norwood who built there the house now numbered 90 Granite Street. From that deed to Babson it is evident that the Sea Mark field and the road had been walled in, for the description bounds the land and road on walls against Rowe. Major Rowe was then dead and the farm was owned by his son William. It further appears from this deed that the road itself had been reduced in width throughout its entire length, for it stated that it was one rod wide between the walls.

In 1838 Babson sold his interest in the top field, as it came to be called, to Ezra Eames who had begun to buy land along Granite Street on which he built the house No. 96 two years later. In 1854 Eames bought the Fears brothers' interest in the field. From that time on the field was owned by Mr. Eames and his heirs until 1929, when the Town of Rockport bought for park purposes all but the northeast corner acre, thus bringing the major portion of the Landmark back into public ownership. In 1931 the water supply standpipe was erected on the southwest corner of the Town's land.


About fifteen acres on the easterly slope of the hill are owned by the Village Improvement Society of Pigeon Cove. This land

was purchased in 1916 and 1921, partly from the heirs of Austin W. Story and partly from heirs of Ezra Eames, and is held as a public trust. This reservation includes the walled acre in the northeast corner of the Sea Mark or Top Field; a large open field called Eames Field, abutting on the upper 400 feet of Landmark Lane and adjoining the Sea Mark; a small piece of about one acre north of the field and east of the northeast Sea Mark corner lot; and 9 acres of woodland adjoining the latter and extending easterly down the hill past the school house and Pingree Park to a knoll overlooking the sea. This woodland piece is the old Lot 60 of the 1688 layout and lay on the northerly side of the Rowe farm next the Old Castle property. It has long been known locally as the Pea Grove, which name is surmised to be a corruption of Pig Grove. The latter name is presumed to be reminiscent of the day when the Rowes pastured hogs on that land. Pig Grove being difficult to pronounce clearly, the corruption naturally developed. There is nothing more substantial than tradition to substantiate this presumption.

About one hundred years ago a triangulation station was established on the hill by the State Survey, then being conducted under Simeon Borden. That station has been perpetuated by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. The station is marked by a small bronze plate set flush with the ground surface about 75 feet easterly of the standpipe.



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## *Early Farms of Pigeon Cove*

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### LANESVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD

**T**HE six-acre lots, laid out and granted in 1688, between Flat Stone Cove (now Lane's) and Halibut Point, were traded around in a speculative way until about 1700, when they began to be purchased by persons who intended to settle there. One of the earliest was John Lane, who came from Falmouth, Me., and bought lots 1, 2 and 3, July 29, 1700. In addition he had a grant of ten acres of common land. He was a native of Malden, Mass., whose father, James, moved to Falmouth in 1658. A few years later, April 24, 1707, John's brother Samuel bought lots 22 and 23 at Gallop's Folly Cove. Both settled on their land. Another early settler was Thomas Wise of Chebacco, who bought lots 12, 13 and 20, January 23, 1704/5. Soon after he also bought lots 14 and 21. The latter bounded east on the westerly shore of Folly Cove. In 1707 a grant of upward of four acres lying on the west side of Folly Brook was made to Benjamin Hoppen. This land lay on the easterly side of what is now Woodbury Street and south of Washington Street. About the same time a similar grant was made to Edward Jumper. His land lay on the westerly side of Woodbury Street and south of Washington Street. Woodbury Street is the northerly end of a path that led from these places south across the woods to Sandy Bay. It was long known as Jumper's Lane and as the path from Sandy Bay to Jumper's. By 1723 Wise and Hoppen sold to Deacon James Lane, a son of the above named John. There was also a Finson family in that neighborhood who likewise sold to Deacon Lane. When he died in 1751 the deacon owned a considerable portion of the land lying between the two coves, and several of the woodlots south of there.

Although the original and immediately subsequent deeds to the foregoing places are so vague that it is impossible to locate their boundaries with any degree of definiteness, it is not un-

likely that the ancient story and a half gambrel-roofed house, now numbered 1261 Washington Street, is the one built by Thomas Wise about 1705. Wise sold his place to Deacon James Lane June 8, 1723, the deed describing the property as "twenty acres of upland and fresh meadow with a good double house, a barn and orchard near Gallop's Folly Cove." That Deacon Lane ever lived in that house appears to be doubtful.

#### SAMUEL LANE

SAMUEL LANE, blacksmith, who bought lots 22 and 23, April 24, 1707, was born about 1664, probably at Falmouth, Me., whither his father moved from Malden, Mass., in 1658. Samuel's wife's name was Abigail, surname unknown. Just before his death he deeded his place to his son Samuel junior. The deed, dated December 30, 1724, mentions three married daughters, Hannah Gott (Mrs. Samuel junior), Mary Tucker (Mrs. John), and Phebe Butler (Mrs. John). Another daughter, Rachall, died in 1718, ten years old.

Lane's two lots were wide ones, extending on the shore from the present Rockport-Gloucester line easterly nearly to the Norwood Mill Brook. From the sea the land ran southerly on to what was then known as Folly Hill, now Woodbury Hill.

Samuel Lane, Jr., who also was a blacksmith, married first Mary Emmons October 23, 1722. She was the mother of their twelve children, born between 1723 and 1741. Mary died soon after the latter date and Samuel married, May 17, 1745, Deliverance (Giddings) Pool, widow of Joshua Pool. The children of Samuel junior and Mary were: Samuel, 3<sup>d</sup>, b. July 7, 1723; m. Abigail Stanford 1743, Mercy Newhall 1762. Mary b. Sept. 4, 1724; d. before 1741. Elezabeth bp. Mch. 26, 1728/9. Zebulon b. July 1, 1729. Hannah bp. Jan. 10, 1730/31. Judith bp. May 13, 1733; d. before 1736. Daniel bp. Jan. 5, 1734/35; m. Mary Lane 1761. Judith bp. June 16, 1736. Susanna bp. Oct. 23, 1737. Issachar bp. June 11, 1739. Zacheus bp. Aug. 3, 1740. Mary b. Oct. 16, 1741.

Samuel Lane, Jr. died before April 10, 1765, on which date the appraisal of his property was filed by David Lane as Ad-



administrator. In the inventory, filed a month later, he was credited with 17 acres of land, a dwelling house, barn, blacksmith shop, a fishing boat, canoe, a horse, a cow, two heifers and a hog. John Woodbury, a neighbor, who married Susanna, presumably a daughter of David Lane, acquired the property, subject to the widow's dower, though no deed has been found covering the transfer. Five years after Samuel's death Woodbury deeded the place, May 17, 1770, still subject to the widow's rights, to Daniel Marchant, Jr. for 40 pounds. Marchant (presumed son of Jabez and Mary (Babson), baptized August 11, 1745) had married Thomasine Lane, presumably daughter of Samuel, 3<sup>d</sup>, November 21, 1769, only six months before he bought the Lane farm. Thomasine died April 13, 1780. It is presumed that it was this Daniel who married Mrs. Experience Marsh two years later, May 2, 1782. His death is not recorded, but it appears likely that he died shortly before 1828.

The vital records of the Marchant family are fragmentary, making it difficult to trace the generations accurately. It seems probable, however, that Daniel junior and Thomasine had a son, Daniel, 3<sup>d</sup>, born about 1775, who married Susanna Grover in 1798 and Lydia Hale in 1822. A son Caleb, credited in the records to Daniel junior, was baptized June 6, 1784, but as the name of the mother was not given it is impossible to know if he was a son of Thomasine or of Experience. Children sometimes were not baptized until they were five or more years old. Caleb married Mary Grover December 7, 1805. A daughter, Abigail, was also recorded to Daniel junior and Thomasine as born June 1, 1777. She was probably the Abigail who married Joel Griffin November 24, 1798.

During the last century there were seven houses on the old Lane farm. Five of these remain. None of them have been given street numbers. It is impossible to definitely fix the origins of some of these houses, owing to the absence of recorded deeds, and for want of adequate probate records relating to the Marchant family. From such records as have been found, supplemented by the testimony of members of the Marchant and Griffin and related families now living, it is presumed that the origins here given are probably correct.

Beginning at the Rockport-Gloucester town line monument, and working easterly on Granite Street, the first house, which is close to the line, was built by Caleb Marchant senior, son of Daniel junior. Its exact date is uncertain. Caleb married in December, 1805, but his father did not deed him this lot, 99 feet wide on the highway, until April 21, 1817. It seems obvious that no house was conveyed with the land, for the price named in the deed was only \$29. It is not impossible that the house was built at the time of Caleb's marriage, and that his father may have helped him to finance its building, the deed being withheld until that indebtedness was fully discharged. This was a not uncommon practice in those days. The first definite evidence found of Caleb's living there is on the plan of the road around the cape made by Jabez R. Gott in 1823. The house and Caleb's name appear on the plan. Unfortunately Mr. Gott did not locate all the houses that then stood along the road. Had he done so this attempt to establish their origins would have been greatly simplified.

Caleb and Mary (Grover) evidently had three sons, Caleb junior, Nathaniel L. and William, though their births are not recorded. William married Cynthia Sargent, December 31, 1843, and in June, 1852, his father deeded him a house lot next east of his own. It is stated that the story and a half house now there was built by William. It is quite likely that it dates from the time of his marriage. Since the accompanying map includes no houses built after 1840, this one does not appear there. In 1857 William bought the house at 158 Granite Street opposite Breakwater Avenue and established the wood and coal business that has been continued there to the present time. In May, 1865, he sold his Folly Cove house to Howard Poland, who had married his cousin, Sarah Jane Marchant, a daughter of Nathaniel L.

Until about 1892 there stood close to the roadside, next east of the William Marchant house, a very old story and a half dwelling. At that time a new owner moved it back from the street on to the hillside and incorporated it in a new studio building. Exteriorly it has been completely disguised, but interiorly its original characteristics have been preserved. Its timbering, the panelled finish and the wrought-iron work are clearly of early



eighteenth century origin. It is probable that this house was built either by Samuel Lane senior at the time of his settlement there in 1707, or by his son Samuel junior about 1722, when the latter married. As will appear later there is a possibility that Samuel senior's house stood on the easterly side of the farm. Samuel junior died in this westerly house in 1765, after which it came into the possession of John Woodbury, as already stated, and in 1770 he conveyed it and the entire farm to Daniel Marchant, Jr. Daniel appears to have died before 1828, in which year the place came into the possession of Mrs. Thomasine (York) Currier, widow of Moses. In 1833 she conveyed the house and a lot of back land to her son Philander Currier, who probably lived there until 1837, when he bought land of the Moses Wheeler heirs and built the house 170½ Granite Street. The old house at Folly Cove he sold in 1838 to Nathaniel Lane, who lived there until his death, which appears to have been before 1852. His heirs continued to own the property until 1892, after which it became a part of the studio already referred to.

Just east of the above old house the "old road," a remnant of the original highway layout of 1707, swings right from the present Granite Street, and within a few feet passes a story and a half house. In 1828 the site was owned by Daniel Marchant, Jr. (3<sup>d</sup>), whose wife was then Lydia (Hale), and in April of that year they conveyed the property as 4½ acres to Charles Marchant, his son by his first wife, Susanna (Grover), for \$60. Charles was born in 1803. Six months after purchasing the above land he married Sophia Rider, November 16, 1828. He doubtless built the house at that time. Except for the fact that a single flue chimney has at some time been substituted for the larger old one, the house bears architectural evidences characteristic of the early years of the nineteenth century.

Until within relatively recent years a house stood a little east of the Charles Marchant place, also on the old road. It burned and only its cellar remains. It is known that this house was built by Caleb Marchant, Jr., a cousin of Charles, both being grandsons of Daniel junior and Thomasine (Lane). Caleb junior married Sally Goins December 14, 1831, and probably built the house at that time. He died there in 1875, leaving the property

to his nephew Caleb L., a son of Nathaniel L., subject to the life interest of his widow.

Directly opposite the Caleb junior cellar, on the north side of the old road, is the house known locally as the Griffin homestead. There is reason to conclude that this house was built by Joel Griffin, a son of Samuel and Elizabeth, who was baptized February 26, 1775. He married Abigail Marchant (intentions November 24, 1798), presumably a daughter of Daniel junior and Thomasine (Lane). Although no deed has been found, it is presumed that Joel bought this lot from his father-in-law in 1803, in which year he was assessed for a house lot. The following year he was assessed for a house, and it is said in the family that the one in question was built in 1804. Abigail died October 10, 1831, and Joel died October 7, 1848.

Yet another house once stood on the Lane Farm, but nothing positive has been learned about it beyond the fact that it was standing in 1828. It is quite definitely located in two deeds of that date, and in two subsequent deeds dated 1832 and 1844. (Salem Deeds, Bk. 264, pp. 199, 200; Bk. 271, p. 101; Bk. 487, p. 166.) These deeds referred to the house as a landmark, but gave no clue as to its early owner. The deed of 1832 called it "the old house." With the aid of those descriptions the foundation stones of the house were located a little southeast of the Caleb Marchant, Jr., cellar, and back about 150 feet from the old road. It is possible that this may have been the house built by Samuel Lane senior in 1707. If so, the old house that is now a part of the studio near the town line was almost certainly that of Samuel junior.

#### WILLIAM WOODBERRY

CAPTAIN WILLIAM WOODBERRY, wheelwright, from Beverly, married Judith Riggs of Gloucester about 1705. Judging from the statement on his death record, January 17, 1712/13, that he was "very aged," it is assumed that he may have been previously married. When his widow married again, intentions April 16, 1715, her age was recorded as 30 years. She would, therefore, have been about 20 years old when she married Captain Woodberry. The Woodberrys had two children, Nicholas, born June



10, 1707, who died the same year, and Judith, born July 12, 1710. She married William Norwood, son of Francis, Jr., of Goose Cove, May 30, 1732.

Captain Woodberry began buying land at Halibut Point in 1705. His first purchase, November 2, 1705, consisted of lots 26, 27 and 28, lying east of Granite Street and next to Samuel Gott's land. On November 27 of that year he bought lot 24, the meadow through which the Norwood Mill Brook flows, and abutting west on Samuel Lane's land. On September 27, 1709, he bought of Rev. John White eight acres which apparently lay just south of the meadow lot and on the west side of Granite Street. On January 10, 1710/11, he bought about ten acres from Ebenezer Davis, land apparently lying next south of the White piece. On August 23, 1711, he bought lot 25. This lot is crossed diagonally by Granite Street between Gott Avenue and Folly Cove. His final purchase, on April 1, 1712, was from the heirs of Rev. John Emerson, a triangular piece of eleven acres, which apparently lay next south of the Davis lot. This must have extended his holdings on the west of Granite Street to the northern end of Curtis Street.

According to the foregoing deeds he acquired about 59 acres of contiguous land, for which he had paid 70 pounds. It is evident, however, judging from the language of deeds given later by his daughter Judith, and her husband William Norwood, that the property was about 80 acres in extent. Captain Woodberry left no will, and there is no inventory or settlement of record, but it seems evident, nevertheless, that the daughter inherited the entire property. This conclusion is based upon the language of two deeds. On February 6, 1737/38, William Norwood and his wife Judith deeded one-half of the farm, about 40 acres, to Captain Samuel Sargent. Then on May 2 of the same year Captain Sargent reconveyed to Captain Norwood this selfsame land as "a full half of William Woodberry's real estate." These complimentary deeds not unlikely represent a legal formality by which Judith transferred to her husband the title to that portion of the property. It being illegal for a wife to convey real estate directly to her husband, a transaction through a third party was necessary.

The description of the bounds contained in that deed makes it clear that the eastern half of the farm was the portion turned over to the husband. More than thirty years later, on September 6, 1771, William Norwood and his wife Judith deeded to their son James the "westerly half of the real estate left by William Woodberry to the said Judith Norwood, the only surviving child and heir of said William Woodberry," about 40 acres. This piece is described in the deed as bounded "northward on the sea (*i.e.*, Folly Cove), westerly on land which belonged to Samuel Lane, southerly on land once of Elias Davis (*i.e.*, the Garrison House farm), easterly on land of said William Norwood which was conveyed to him by Samuel Sargent." The deed stated further that the dividing line between the halves was to run "so as to divide the whole of the original estate left to the said Judith into two equal parts." That seems to clinch the probable fact that Judith inherited the entire property from her father.

Captain Woodberry's daughter Judith was between two and three years old when her father died in 1713. Two years later her mother married James Lane. His first wife was Ruth Riggs, a sister of Judith (Riggs) Woodberry. Inasmuch as he had apparently lived near Folly Cove town landing, it seems doubtful if he ever lived on the Woodberry place. It is not unlikely that the farm was rented until such time as the daughter, Judith, married or became of age.

Judith married William Norwood, later known as Captain, May 30, 1732, when she was nearly twenty-two years old. Her husband was two years older. Presumably they went to live on the Woodberry farm. Only four children are recorded to them: Judith, born May 16, 1738, who married David Plummer; William, born October 1, 1740; Mary, married a Williams; James, born May 5, 1745, married first, about 1771, his cousin Susanna Norwood, a daughter of Jonathan<sup>3</sup> who was son of Francis junior, and second her sister Judith, September 20, 1791. There may have been others before Judith whose births were not recorded, but Captain Norwood's will, executed in 1779, mentioned only three children, Judith, Mary and James. The inference is that the son William had died.

On March 6, 1748/49, Captain Norwood bought the westerly



half of the Samuel Gott farm, 27½ acres, which adjoined his on the east, paying therefor 1,025 pounds, which enormous sum obviously indicates the depreciated paper money of those days. "Old Tenor" Provincial paper currency was then valued at about one-eighth of "Lawful Money," *i.e.*, coin. Lieutenant Gott had died November 3, 1748, leaving his house and a large part of his farm to his twin sons, Joseph and Benjamin, but in undivided form. The three men chosen by them to divide the property allotted to Benjamin the western half of the house and the land adjoining Norwood. This he thereupon sold to Norwood and bought a house and lot at Lobster Cove. (See Samuel Gott And His Sons.)

In 1761, '62 and '63, Captain Norwood bought other pieces from the Gott heirs, among them four acres of Daniel Gott's homestead on the southerly corner of Granite Street and Gott Avenue, and the house built by Benjamin Stockbridge in 1756, and now standing in the rear of 46 Curtis Street. Stockbridge married Eunice Gott, a daughter of Stephen, who was a son of Lieutenant Samuel. These three pieces totalled only 6½ acres.

Incidentally it may be remarked that Captain Norwood owned slaves. Shortly before his father's death in 1745 all his negroes, both male and female, save one, were deeded to this son William. How many the Captain held when he died in 1781 is not known. By his will he gave a negro woman to his daughter Mary Williams. If he had others they went to the son James, who inherited all the real and personal estate. Slaves would be personal property. Two years after Captain Norwood's death, all slaves in Massachusetts were emancipated by a decree of the Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth based upon the declaration in the State Constitution that all men are free and equal.

It is presumed that the son, James Norwood, married his first wife, Susanna Norwood, in 1771, at the time when his father and mother deeded him the westerly half of the farm. She died in 1790. James married her sister Judith, September 20, 1791. The house occupied by the Woodberrys, and later by the Norwoods, probably stood on the site of the existing buildings or near there. When the road was laid out in 1707 from Samuel Gott's house to Goose Cove the description mentions the Woodberry house,

and the language quite clearly places it at what is now the corner of Gott Avenue and Granite Street. If James had a house on his western side of the farm its location is not positively known. It is possible that 212 Granite Street was the one. His mother died July 19, 1775, and his father February 1, 1781. After that, if not before, James probably lived in his father's house. His initials, J. N., are chiselled on a granite gate post on the Gott Avenue frontage where a driveway enters to the barn. Under the initials there is inscribed the date 1799. Just across Granite Street, opposite Gott Avenue, there is a similar stone post flanking a barway. This is inscribed W. N. 1799. This post originally stood at the barn barway as a mate to the J. N. post, but was moved by a subsequent owner. The significance of that date in this connection is not apparent.

James's second wife, Judith, died in February, 1808, and he died "very suddenly," March 10, 1814, 69 years old. His will, executed four years before the death of his wife, gave his entire property to her for life, and at her death to his daughter Harriet Norwood. No record of her marriage has been found, but she became Mrs. James Gooch at some time before August 16, 1815, on which date the Norwood farm was deeded to Gooch by William Saville. On January 14, 1819, the property was transferred to Mrs. Gooch through John Manning, Gooch himself consenting, and on September 23, 1820, the Goochs deeded the place to David Babson for \$4,000, Gooch taking a mortgage for \$2,500. Thenceforth it became known as "The Babson Farm" and as such it is known today.

#### SAMUEL GOTT AND HIS SONS

SAMUEL GOTT, a weaver by trade, came to Halibut Point from Wenham in 1702, where he was born in 1677. He was a son of Charles, who was born in Wenham about 1639, and Sarah Dennis. Samuel's grandfather, also named Charles, had emigrated from Weymouth, England, to Salem in 1628, but had settled in Wenham in 1635. Samuel had married Margaret Andrews of Ipswich, a daughter of William senior. Their intentions were published June 26, 1697. When they came to Halibut Point they had two



and possibly three children, Samuel, born 1699, Prudence (who later married Benjamin Wise), and perhaps John, who, however, was baptized in Gloucester May 9, 1703. Nine others were born at Halibut Point: Daniel, March 28, 1703; Stephen, April 2, 1705; Margaret, October 20, 1706; Charles, August 15, 1709; Lydia, November 6, 1711; Anne, March 11, 1712/13; William, April 17, 1715; Nathaniel, November 2, 1717; Lydia, June 28, 1719. Margaret, the mother of those children, died November 1, 1722, about 46 years old. The following year Samuel married, intentions July 22, 1723, Mrs. Bethany Coggsweil of Ipswich, who was 35 years old. She was the mother of twin boys, Benjamin and Joseph, born August 13, 1725, and a girl, Bethany, born September 29, 1727. Samuel, the father, died November 3, 1748, and Bethany, his wife, April 23, 1755.

Samuel was a lieutenant of militia and was generally known by that title. He bought five six-acre lots, 31 to 35 inclusive, on Halibut Point, and three others, 37 to 39, on Andrews Point for which he paid William Coggsweil of Chebacco 60 pounds lawful money. The deed is dated October 23, 1702, and in it Gott is described as "late of Wenham now resident in Gloucester," which leads to the presumption that he may have built his house and moved in somewhat before the date of the deed. The house that he built, and in which his descendants have lived even to the present day, stands at the eastern end of Gott Avenue, and is said to be the oldest gambrel-roofed house now standing on Cape Ann.

Samuel did not keep all the lots that he bought of Coggsweil. On November 27, 1702, he sold the three lots, 37 to 39, which were not contiguous with his other five, to his brother-in-law William Andrews, Jr., of Ipswich (Chebacco parish) for 20 pounds, the deed describing the land as located "by a Cove usely called hoppole Cove." That shows that the present-day Hoop Pole Cove was so called even in those days. It also indicates the origin of the name Andrews Point.

During the next nine years Samuel acquired about 39 additional acres. On June 16, 1708, the Town voted to give him 8 acres lying on the south side of Gott Avenue and around the corner on Granite Street. On October 12, 1710, he bought the 8 acres next south of the foregoing Town grant. This also fronted



on Granite Street (from number 257 to 268). For this he paid 9 pounds. On December 2 of the same year he bought lot 29 next William Woodberry on the north side of Gott Avenue, and for that he paid 12 pounds. His next purchase was lot 30 on February 12, 1710/11, which cost him 10 pounds. At some time he acquired from William Andrews a 9-acre piece which lay next east of the two pieces south of Gott Avenue. That deed does not appear to have been recorded. He then had seven contiguous lots, 29 to 35, theoretically 42 acres in extent, but actually 59 acres, on the north side of the avenue, and 25 acres on the south side. Finally, on August 23, 1711, he bought 1½ acres from William Woodberry consisting of the sea front of lots 27 and 28. This completed his farm, which theoretically amounted to 68½ acres, and which cost him upward of 75 pounds. He also owned 5 acres at the eastern end of woodlot No. 88. Curtis Street cuts through the eastern end of that lot, and numbers 42 to 50 Curtis Street are on that land.

On October 10, 1739, Samuel Gott drew his will. Six sons, Samuel, Daniel, William, Stephen, Joseph and Benjamin, were then living, and two daughters, Prudence and Bethany, all being mentioned in the will. To Samuel, Daniel and William he left the 25 acres south of Gott Avenue, to Joseph and Benjamin he left the house and 59 acres on the north side of the avenue, they to care for their mother for life. To Stephen he left the Curtis Street woodlot on which this son had already built his house. That house probably stood on the easterly side of Curtis Street opposite No. 46. It either burned or was torn down before July, 1791 (see *The Woods Settlements*). The daughters received no land, only money and household goods. After Lieutenant Samuel's death in 1748 the dismemberment of the farm began. Even the house was cleft in twain with a line through the middle of the front door and the chimney, and the westerly half, with its adjacent land, was sold out of the family. The land of the farm proper having been bequeathed to five sons in undivided form, as already stated, they at once proceeded to have it allotted in severalty. Thus Benjamin was given the westerly 27½ acres north of Gott Avenue and that end of the house, and Joseph drew the east side

of the house and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres adjacent. Benjamin at once sold his share to his neighbor William Norwood, and bought a house at Lobster Cove. Joseph continued to live on his part and eventually the west end of the house was recovered, but not the adjacent land that had been sold with it.

Joseph married Deliverance Pool December 31, 1745. Four children were recorded to them: Betty, born October 7, 1746, married Joseph Blake; Mercy, born January 8, 1748, married Zebulon Lufkin, Jr., 1772; Joseph, born August 5, 1751; Joshua, born July 30, 1754.

Joseph senior died in his thirtieth year, April 30, 1755, just seven days after his mother's death. His widow continued to live in the Gott Avenue house until her death, September 3, 1800. It would appear that Joseph had acquired the westerly end of the house that his brother Benjamin had sold, for the probate inventory of his property included a house and barn, not one-half a house, as would almost certainly have been recorded had that been the case.

Joshua, who was but a year old when his father died, served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and rose to a lieutenancy. He married Deborah Pool December 23, 1779, by whom he had seven children: Joseph, born September 15, 1780; Deborah, born May 5, 1784, died before 1846; Joshua, born July 15, 1786, died August 3, 1786; Nancy, born July 2, 1788, married Epes Young November 1, 1807; Mercy, born October 13, 1792, died before 1846; Lucy, born March 18, 1796, married Job Deneen June 1, 1817; Joshua, born September 18, 1798, married Susanna Story December 21, 1820.

Lieutenant Joshua carried on the home place for his mother. Eventually he bought out the interests of his sisters. Their deeds seem to indicate that the entire house was then owned by their father's estate, which tends to corroborate the conclusion that Joseph had bought back the westerly end of the house from Captain Norwood. Although no deed of record has been found covering the conveyance of that portion of the house to the Gotts, there is one further bit of evidence tending to show that it had been recovered either by Joseph or by Lieutenant Joshua. In 1936 the Rev. Gordon C. Capen, at that time minister of the



Methodist Episcopal Church at Rockport, informed the writer that one of his forebears, Abraham Norwood, Jr., was born in the western end of the Gott house. That Abraham became a well-known Universalist minister. A manuscript account of his life and religious experiences, owned by Mr. Capen, records the fact that he "was born Sunday, December 28, 1806, in the house nearest Halibut Point, said house owned in whole and occupied in part by Joshua Gott." Abraham junior's parents were cousins, both Norwoods, and Captain William Norwood was a brother of their grandfather, Jonathan. That Norwood family lived in the western part of the Gott house until 1821, when they moved to Biddeford, Maine. They had five sons and ten daughters, Abraham junior being the eldest, many of whom were born in the Gott house.

Lieutenant Joshua's wife, Deborah, died January 8, 1801, 39 years old. His mother having died the previous year he was left with three children under ten years of age, and two daughters thirteen and seventeen years old. He probably felt the need of a housekeeper and on June 28, 1801, he married Sally Tarbox. She died February 1, 1807. Lieutenant Joshua himself lived to be 92 years old, dying March 22, 1846. By his will the son, Captain Joshua, inherited one-half of the farm, and the two surviving daughters the other half.

This completes the record of the homestead proper to a date six years after the incorporation of Rockport. The story of the 25 acres lying south from Gott Avenue along Granite Street is a complicated one, since it was entirely sold out of the Gott family by 1806, and had various owners between then and 1840.

This was the land inherited in undivided form by Lieutenant Samuel's sons, Samuel junior, Daniel and William. On April 1, 1749, it was divided among them. Daniel's lot lay along Granite Street for a distance of about 800 feet south from Gott Avenue, including the site of the present number 271 Granite Street, and was 355 feet wide on Gott Avenue. Samuel's piece was next south of Daniel's, and was about 400 feet wide on Granite Street, including the site of the present number 257. William's allotment abutted north on Gott Avenue for 355 feet just east of Daniel's lot, and ran south to Samuel's land.



Samuel junior, the oldest child of Lieutenant Samuel and Margaret (Andrews), married Hannah Lane, a daughter of Samuel senior of Folly Cove, in October, 1722. The records credit them with four children: Hannah, born September 15, 1723, died February 5, 1726/7; Samuel, born March 18, 1724/5, married Rebekah Sanford December 17, 1745, he died March 26, 1750; Nathaniel, born September 9, 1726, married Mary Sanford November 6, 1744, he died May 10, 1752, leaving one child, Abigail, who married Solomon Lane March 22, 1764; Hannah, born April 3, 1728, died ten days later.

Although Samuel junior did not take title to his lot until after his father's death in 1748, it is possible that he built his house in 1722, at the time of his marriage, as his brother Stephen had done on his land. The cellar of Samuel's house still exists next north of 261 Granite Street. Samuel's son Nathaniel bought his uncle William's lot March 29, 1749, for 150 pounds old tenor, no house being mentioned. Nathaniel died three years later and on April 30, 1756, his father and mother deeded to the widow and to her daughter Abigail, "for love and good will . . . that part of my dwelling house in which Mary now lives, and which was under improvement by Nathaniel in his life time." This shows that the son had lived in part of his father's house. The following year, October 31, 1757, the father deeded to the son's widow 7 acres, 11 rods of land adjacent to the house, "it being my homestead."

Judging from the inventory of Nathaniel's estate he must have been a reasonably prosperous fisherman. He owned part of a schooner, two cows and three sheep, and among his personal effects there were a pair of silver buckles, two gold rings, a case of bottles, books, and a pair of looms. The latter may have belonged originally to his grandfather, Lieutenant Samuel Gott, who was a weaver.

What became of William Gott after he sold his land to his nephew is not known. He married first Mary Pearce in 1738, and second Elisabeth Wonson in 1741, and had at least five children. Nothing has been found to indicate that he lived at Pigeon Cove.

Daniel was the third child of Lieutenant Samuel, and the first

to be born in the Gott Avenue house. He married Rachel Littlefield of Manchester, Mass., December 22, 1726. They had seven children at least: Daniel, born October 25, 1728, died before 1739; Rachel, born May 30, 1730, married James Richardson March 19, 1752; John, born September 18, 1732, married Hannah Gammage January 23, 1754; Elisabeth, baptized March 9, 1734/5, married Stephen Richardson 1762; Patience, born August 18, 1737, married Stephen Gott, Jr., her cousin, January 9, 1755; Daniel, born December 23, 1739, married Hannah Norwood September 20, 1761; Margaret, baptized October 16, 1743, married Thomas Richardson 1762.

It is possible that Daniel built his house at the time of his marriage in 1726. The house probably stood on the site of the present 275 Granite Street. Daniel and several of his children moved to Mt. Desert Island, Maine, probably about 1762. In that year he sold the northerly end of his place, 347 feet wide on Gott Avenue and 511 feet on Granite Street, which included the site of 281 Granite Street, to his neighbor, Captain William Norwood.

Daniel died before 1801. In that year and in 1806 his heirs sold his house site to Joseph Bailey, cordwainer. The deeds stated that this "was formerly the homestead or lot on which Daniel Gott's dwelling house stood," and that it "consists of some old apple trees, locust trees, upland, swamp, and ledges of rocks, an old cellar and a small well."

Joseph Bailey, presumed to have been born at Bradford, Mass., in 1766 (Gloucester Vital Records), married Mary Woodbury June 21, 1787, and when he bought the Daniel Gott lot they had seven children: Mary, born March 29, 1788; Joseph, born March 16, 1790, married Esther Lane December 26, 1816; Samuel, born July 11, 1795, married Rhoda Griffin August 31, 1823, drowned July 6, 1825; Charlotte, born April 1, 1797, died December 21, 1797; Andrew Woodbury, born December 6, 1798, married Abigail Newman Fitz November 30, 1825; William, born March 19, 1801, married Elizabeth Thurston December 6, 1827; Levi, born March 30, 1803, married first Rebecca Donnahew September 17, 1826, second Sarah ———.

It is traditional in the Bailey family that Joseph senior bought a house that stood on what is even now spoken of locally as "the



Blanch place," on the road from Pigeon Hill Street to Johnson's quarry, and moved it to the Daniel Gott site. That house is now 275 Granite Street. It is hardly probable that the house, although small, was moved bodily, for in those days there was only a rough and narrow woods road between its original site and Granite Street. It seems more probable that the only part of the house to be moved was the frame. The earlier history of that house is given in the chapter The Woods Settlements.

Mr. Bailey lived there until his death, of which there is no record, but after May 18, 1840, on which day he executed a deed. His wife died November 22, 1818.

The northerly end of Daniel Gott's land that he sold to Captain William Norwood in 1762 had a house built upon its southerly end before the spring of 1795. It is possible that the house now number 281 Granite Street may be, in some part, the original structure, which was probably built by Esther (Norwood), widow of Captain Nathaniel Parsons. He was a son of Deacon William and Mary (Harraden) Parsons of Harbor Village, and had married Esther Norwood, a niece of Captain William, October 8, 1761. Esther was a sister of the wife of Captain William's son James. Just when the house was built is not known. The first recorded deed to it is dated March 10, 1795, when Captain Norwood's son James conveyed to Esther Parsons, widow, "land whereon the said Esther Parsons' house now stands." That lot was 165 feet wide on Granite Street and 132 feet deep. Captain Parsons died about 1780 according to John J. Babson, historian of Gloucester, and it is presumed that he had lived at Kettle Cove, where he owned a farm inherited from his father. Perhaps his widow built the Granite Street house so that she could be near her sister.

Esther, the widow, died May 10, 1812, and the property descended to her son Nathaniel junior, born January 16, 1766. He had married his cousin Susanna Norwood December 1, 1805. He was a cooper. In 1816 and 1817 Nathaniel junior bought from James Gooch, son-in-law of James Norwood, the land north from the house lot to Gott Avenue, 336 feet wide on Granite Street and about 160 feet deep. Nathaniel junior died November 27, 1823, and in the settlement of his estate the place was sold at auction to



Mrs. James Baker, a sister of Mrs. Parsons. The latter subsequently had dower rights in the property set off to her. Mrs. Baker died June 15, 1832, and her estate sold the property, subject to the widow's dower, to John Story, for \$500. The following year, March 18, 1833, Mr. Story bought the widow's interest for \$150.

John Story was a son of James and Sarah (Woodbury), who lived on the site of 64 Curtis Street. He was born April 8, 1799, and married Abigail Walen November 14, 1822. They had six sons and three daughters. Abigail died June 24, 1851. John married second Martha Woodbury Hovey, who died October 19, 1862. He married third Mary A. Saunders, who died February 8, 1888. Mr. Story died in the Parsons house February 25, 1887. He was a veteran of the War of 1812. The property descended to his heirs by whom the property is still owned.

The house and land of Samuel Gott, Jr., just south of the Daniel Gott place, had been given by Samuel junior, in 1756 and 1757, to the widow of his son Nathaniel and to her daughter Abigail, as already stated. Moses Wheeler of The Garrison House acquired the place in 1778 from John Procter, who very likely bought it from Nathaniel Gott's widow and daughter, and in March, 1781, conveyed it to his brother Joseph Wheeler. He married Susanna Davis December 4, 1783, and moved into the Samuel Gott, Jr., house. They had three daughters: Susanna, born (no record), feeble minded, died October 9, 1840; Lucy, baptized October 4, 1789, died September, 1813, unmarried; Sally, born (no record), married first, December 25, 1813, Nathan Pool, second, intentions October 28, 1832, Lewis Lane.

Joseph Wheeler died in 1790 and the property, which included a new barn on the site of 269 Granite Street, was divided between the widow and her daughters, Aaron Wheeler, brother of Joseph, being the administrator and guardian of the children. The widow married Stephen Thurston, intentions June 14, 1796, a grandson of Stephen Gott senior. Twenty years later, in 1816, the Thurstons sold their interest in the place to Moses Wheeler and moved to Hampden County, Mass. This left the incompetent daughter Susanna without care and Joseph Bailey senior, the next-door neighbor, was made her guardian, and a definite portion of the

house was set off for her use. Mr. Bailey, as guardian, appears to have acquired the Thurston rights in the house and on May 4, 1820, sold a part of the house, barn and adjacent land, together with 6½ acres of pasture, to Walter Woodbury for \$160. Twenty years later, May 18, 1840, Mr. Bailey conveyed to his son Andrew a part of the house and barn, three acres of field and eleven acres of pasture for \$228. The deed stated that this was the whole of the dower that had been set off to Joseph Wheeler's widow. The part sold to Woodbury was therefore the portion belonging to his ward, Susanna Wheeler. Meantime Lewis Lane, having married Sally (Wheeler) Pool in 1832, bought Walter Woodbury's share in the house. He and Andrew Bailey occupied the house until September 7, 1848, when Lane sold his share to Bailey. It is not improbable that Andrew Bailey had lived in the house as a tenant from the date of his marriage in 1825 until his purchase in 1840.

The site of the house 259 Granite Street was a part of the Joseph Wheeler estate allotted to his daughter Sally. She sold to Joseph Bailey, Jr., and he to his brother Levi, October 21, 1829, for \$25. Levi, who was a carpenter, built the present house, which he sold to Gorham and David Babson, Jr., for \$426, August 19, 1830. The Babsons bought it as a speculation and on July 4, 1835, they sold it to Michael Walen for \$550. Mr. Walen lived there for the remainder of his life.

Levi had married his first wife in 1826. Two years later he bought from his father the site of 277 Granite Street, built the house now there, and made this his home.

The old Samuel Gott, Jr., house was a two story structure. Some forty years ago it was bought by Mrs. David Clifford Babson who had it moved to the rear of her property at 182 Granite Street. Its antiquity has been completely disguised by exterior alterations, but the present owner has restored the interior finish which had been covered with plaster and paper.

#### WILLIAM ANDREWS

WILLIAM ANDREWS, yeoman, came to the Halibut Point neighborhood in 1702 from Chebacco parish of Ipswich, and bought land from his brother-in-law, Samuel Gott. He was born



at Chebacco, October 23, 1673, a son of Ensign William and Margaret (Woodman). His grandfather was Lieutenant John Andrews of Ipswich. William was unmarried when he bought his first 18 acres, lots 37, 38 and 39, situated, as the deed stated, "by a Cove usely called hoppole Cove," Hoop Pole Cove today. This land he bought of his brother-in-law and neighbor, Samuel Gott, and paid 20 pounds therefor. He was then 29 years old. During the next eleven years he bought, one by one, six additional lots totalling 37 acres, lots 36 to 43, and 7 acres of common, making his farm 55 acres in the whole. His coming made this a snug family neighborhood, for his sister Margaret, Mrs. Samuel Gott, lived on the farm next north, and his sister Elizabeth, Mrs. Joshua Norwood, was his next-door neighbor on the south at The Garrison House.

William married first at Ipswich, July 29, 1710, Elizabeth Curtis. He married second at Ipswich, November 26, 1725, Agnes Pollard. He probably died soon after July 17, 1746, on which day he divided his real estate by deeds between his sons William and Jonathan and his daughter Mary. By Elizabeth he had had four children, Mary, born December 5, 1711, who married John Bolton of Wenham, intentions October 2, 1744; Jonathan, born October 20, 1713, who married first Hannah Robinson, intentions March 6, 1740, second Mrs. Anna Tarr, born Harris, November 23, 1752; William, born May 30, 1716, and who died young; William, born April 12, 1723, who married Ruth Riggs November 2, 1744. By Agnes he had two daughters: Agnes, born July 16, 1727, who married Josiah Grover, Jr.; Susanna, born December 7, 1729.

The son Jonathan had two boys and a girl by his first wife, Hannah: Jonathan, born March 30, 1741, who married Hannah Morgan in 1773; William, born 1744, who presumably died before 1756; Abigail, born 1746, who married a Woodbury. By his second wife, Anna, he had: Mary, born 1753, who married Stephen Knutsford November 5, 1778; William Tarr, born May 2, 1756, who married first Hannah Williams, second Rebecca Williams, third Polly Knights, July 13, 1798; Anna, born November 19, 1759; Judith, born April 10, 1763.

The daughter, Mary, married Stephen Knutsford, an English-



man, November 5, 1778, who, according to tradition, was found by Mary in an exhausted condition on the shore near Andrews Point. The story is that he either fell or jumped from an English vessel that was skirting the coast and swam ashore. Only the most tenuous tradition concerning this incident persists, but it is understood that Mary Andrews had him taken home where she nursed him back to strength, and soon after married him. Stephen junior, William and Susanna Knutsford, who lived near Stockholm Avenue, and Thomas Knutsford of 46 Curtis Street, were four of their nine children.

Just before his death in 1746, William Andrews senior deeded his house, barn and 20 acres adjoining to his son William. To his daughter, Mrs. Bolton, he deeded 18 acres, and to his son Jonathan 29 acres. The Andrews house, inherited by William junior, stood on the Granite Street frontage opposite the northerly end of Curtis Street. Mrs. Bolton's land lay along the shore of Hoop Pole Cove. Jonathan's piece included the whole of Andrews Point from Hoop Pole Cove to a little south of Chapin's Gully.

William junior was a soldier in the second Louisburg campaign during the summer of 1758, in which he was wounded so severely that he died on the trip home. His widow was left with six children, the oldest thirteen, and another was born that fall. He had been given the homestead by his father on condition that he would bear half of the living expenses of his step-mother, and pay her ten pounds a year during her life. This he had faithfully done for upward of six years as stated to the Probate Court by his brother Jonathan, who was administrator of William's estate, and guardian of his children. These children were Ruth, born August 10, 1745, who married Joshua Norwood, Jr., 1765; John, born June 20, 1748; William, born September 18, 1750, reported killed during the Revolution; Elizabeth, born October 23, 1752, married Isaac Norwood January 26, 1769; Sarah, born April 29, 1755, married John Burnham before 1774; Solomon, born September 4, 1757, married Molly Allen March 15, 1794; Martha, born October 20, 1758.

Ruth, widow of William Andrews, Jr., died of smallpox July 22, 1779. It seems doubtful, however, if she had been living in the old house for some years for, according to deeds dated De-

ember, 1771, and July, 1774, the house was occupied in those years by the widow of Jonathan. By those deeds three of William junior's children, John Andrews, Mrs. Isaac Norwood and Mrs. John Burnham, disposed of their rights in the property to Isaac Pool, who sold to Moses Wheeler of The Garrison House in 1778.

There is no evidence that the Boltons (Mary Andrews) ever lived on their Hoop Pole Cove shore front. In 1768 they sold to their neighbor, William Norwood, and moved to Hampden County, Mass.

It is barely possible that Jonathan may have lived on his Andrews Point land at some time. His piece was part of the tract bought by Eben Phillips in the 1860's, at which time "the avenues" were laid out and the property cut up into house lots. On a plan made for Mr. Phillips about that time by Calvin Pool, a small enclosure is shown opposite 51 Phillips Avenue with a notation that it is the Andrews house site. It has been thought by some that this may have been the site of the first house built by William Andrews senior. This notion is somewhat supported by the reference in deeds of 1748, 1765 and 1793 to "William Andrews' old garden" as applied to the land just north of the stone house built on Point de Chene Avenue by John M. Way. Both the house site and the garden site are, however, on the two last pieces of land bought by William Andrews in December, 1712, and in November, 1713. The site of the house on Granite Street he bought in January, 1711, six months after his first marriage. It seems more reasonable to surmise that Jonathan may have lived on the site indicated by Mr. Pool.

There is no record of Jonathan's death, but it would appear from the date of his probate accounting upon his brother William's estate, January 26, 1768, and the date of the deeds above referred to, December 19, 1771, that he died in the interim. Possibly he had purchased the life interest of his sister-in-law and had been living in the old house.

In 1778, Moses Wheeler of The Garrison House bought up the rights of the William Andrews, Jr., heirs in the house and adjacent land, and between 1780 and 1797 he picked up the rights of Jonathan's heirs in the land at the Point. The latter piece he kept for his own use as a pasture, but in 1783 he sold



the house and its land to his brother Joseph. When Joseph died in 1790 the inventory of his estate included the "Old house called the Andrews house." In 1797, Moses bought back the William Andrews lot and the deed stated that it was "where formerly his dwelling house stood." So the house disappeared between 1790 and 1797.

It is probable that no member of the Andrews family lived on any part of the old place after Jonathan's widow. More concerning Joseph Wheeler's ownership of the house property will be found in the story of the Samuel Gott farm.

The "Andrews field," as the house site came to be known, descended from Moses Wheeler to his son, John Woodbury Wheeler, who sold it to his brother-in-law, Azor Knowlton, November 18, 1841. Knowlton married Amelia (Wheeler) Hale, widow of Stephen Hale.

#### JOSHUA NORWOOD

THE FARM on which stands the so-called Witch House, latterly more properly known in all probability as The Garrison House (188 Granite Street), was developed by Joshua Norwood. He was a son of Francis senior of Goose Cove and was born February 27, 1683. He married Elizabeth Andrews of Chebacco, daughter of Ensign William, September 25, 1704. She was a sister of Mrs. Samuel Gott of Halibut Point, and of William Andrews of Andrews Point. Joshua and Elizabeth had fourteen children: Elizabeth, born January 2, 1706, married Ebenezer Pool January 30, 1723/24; Joshua, born October 18, 1707; Sarah, born November 10, 1710; Stephen, baptized July 19, 1713; Hannah, born March 10, 1715; Mary, born April 15, 1717; Susanna, born February 26, 1719, died December 3, 1726; Francis, born April 7, 1721, married Anna Smith (Baker), widow of Thomas Lee, 1762; Abigail, born March 28, 1723; Miriam, born February 14, 1725; Susanna, born February 24, 1726/27, married Moses Wheeler<sup>5</sup>; Rachel, born December 27, 1728; Patience, born August 5, 1731; Caleb, born about 1733, married first Elizabeth Grover, 1759, second Jerusha Story, 1770. Joshua died 1762, and Elizabeth 1774.

Joshua's father, Francis, was a wealthy man for his day, and



at his death, March 4, 1708/09, he owned a considerable amount of land. The inventory of his estate shows that he owned "a lott of land leying on the Cape containing about Six acc<sup>s</sup> which came by the comon right" (perhaps meaning lot 52 which he drew in the 1688 grants), also "about Sixtty acc<sup>s</sup> of land leying neare pidgeon cove so-called on the Cape and on which land Joshua Norwood now dwells."

Deeds show that Francis owned eight of the six-acre lots near the cove, but that statement that he owned 60 acres would indicate that perhaps he owned ten lots. Lot 52 fronted on Pigeon Cove beach near the present corner of Granite Street and Breakwater Avenue, and ran thence northwesterly for about 1,500 feet, which would place its northerly end perhaps 300 feet west of The Garrison House. It is known from the deeds that Francis also owned lots 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 56, 57, and 59. Lot 49 probably fronted on the sea at the northern end of the Pigeon Cove breakwater, and it is quite possible that The Garrison House stood on its northern end. The south boundary of lot 59 is now the line between 139 and 141 Granite Street. The Old Castle probably stands upon lot 54.

The father's will gave to Joshua "a parcel of upland ground containing sixty acres be it more or less with all that does belong or appertain to the said land and which land is situate and lying att the head of the Cape by piggion cove so usually called."

Before his father's death, Joshua had bought at least three other lots, numbers 43, 48, and 58, and by 1712 he owned also lots 44, 45, 47, and 55, but no deeds of these to him have been found of record. Lot 43 he sold to his brother-in-law, William Andrews, in 1712, the same year in which he sold the Old Castle farm, lots 54 to 59, to Jethro Wheeler. In November, 1708, he bought three acres from the Town. Where that lay is unknown, for the description merely stated that it adjoined his other land. In January, 1710/11, Joshua's brother Caleb, who then lived at Goose Cove, but later in Boston where he died, secured four acres of common land from the Town, and the following month deeded it to Joshua. This piece, judging from the deed description, probably lay just north of The Garrison House and next to William Andrews.

The Garrison House farm therefore included nine of the original lots, 44 to 53 inclusive, plus seven acres of common land. That totals only 61 acres, if the numbered lots are taken to be six acres each as stated in the grants. To this was added 4 acres in 1716, granted by the Town in lieu of the highway taking of that year, thus making 65 acres in all. However, when Joshua sold this farm in 1732 the deed stated that it contained, "by estimation," 140 acres. The same property was again sold in 1735, in 1753, and in 1778, always with the same description, and always as being about 140 acres in extent. In 1798, in connection with the Federal tax on dwellings, etc., it was assessed as 107 acres. As a matter of fact it probably extended southerly from the northern junction of Curtis and Granite Streets, to 144 Granite Street, and from the seashore to a little westerly of the old quarry railroad, be that what it may in acreage.

It is impossible to determine on which of his father's lots Joshua was living at the time of his father's death. Some have thought that he may have built and lived in The Old Castle, which stands on lot 54, but, as will be seen in connection with that farm, there is room to doubt if he built that house. If The Garrison House stands on lot 49, as seems possible, he may have been living there. He certainly lived there after he sold the Old Castle farm in 1712, and for twenty years thereafter.

Exactly when The Garrison House was built no one can say. There can be little doubt that the oldest log-built portion was standing in 1688. Constructed with squared logs throughout, with the second story overhanging on all sides, it typified the defensive structures that ceased to be built after about 1680. A widely accepted tradition credits the building of the old log portion to two young men named Procter from Salem Village, now Danvers, in 1692, as a refuge for their mother, who had been banished for witchcraft. According to the historical notes of Ebenezer Pool, the antiquary of Sandy Bay in the early part of the last century, members of the Andrews family of Andrews Point were authority for this story.

The record of the prosecution of John Procter and his wife, Elizabeth, is found in Volume II, page 190 and following, of the *Historical Collections of the Essex Institute, Salem*, published in



1860. The Salem Vital Records show that John Procter married Elizabeth Bassett April 1, 1674. They had lived in Ipswich, but in 1692 were of Salem Village. A serving maid in their household brought the charge of witchcraft against them in April, 1692. They were tried at the Salem assizes and, in spite of petitions and declarations signed by their friends testifying to their high standing in the community and the church, both were condemned to death. The husband was executed, but the wife was reprieved, owing to her pregnancy, it being stipulated that she should withdraw from all contact with the community.

The tradition is that the sons, knowing of this remote place, built the log house and lived there with their mother. It was a lonely spot in 1692, the nearest house being that of Richard Tarr at Sandy Bay Brook. How long they may have lived there does not appear to have been stated, but with the general disillusionment regarding witchcraft that came to pass almost immediately thereafter, the necessity for this exile could not have been of long duration. At all events, according to the story, Mrs. Procter later married a man from Lynn, and the records of that city show the marriage of Elizabeth Procter and Daniel Richards, their intentions being published September 22, 1699, which seems to substantiate the tradition in this respect.

Some time about 1890 this story came to the ears of a then well-known English Shakespearean actor, Ian Forbes-Robertson, at that time manager of the Boston theatre known as The Museum, who was spending a summer holiday as a boarder at The Garrison House. Until then it had been generally spoken of locally as The Old House. This picturesque story of the Procter incident appealed to the imagination of Mr. Forbes-Robertson, who at once dubbed it "The Witch House." In no time this new name came into general usage. This statement was substantiated by Mr. Forbes-Robertson in a letter to the author only a few months before his death.

After the purchase of the house by Oliver E. Williams of Boston in 1925 as a summer residence, a complete restoration of the structure was undertaken by Thomas Williams, a son of the owner, a special student of New England colonial and provincial architecture. In the course of this work the log construction of



the oldest part was uncovered, revealing to Mr. Williams its unquestionable resemblance to the garrison houses built in this part of New England at the time of King Philip's War. The settlers in the towns round about were greatly alarmed at that time, notably the people of Ipswich and Chebacco. An indication of the general uneasiness is found in the order issued by the General Court in 1676 that every town should "scout and ward and clear the highways of brush and undergrowth" as a safeguard against skulking Indians. It was officially reported that year by a committee of the General Court that forts had been built at Topsfield, Boxford and other places, and that "Cape Ann has made two garrisons, besides several particular fortifications."

It is difficult to perceive why the Town of Gloucester should have gone to the trouble and expense of building so substantial a log garrison in that wholly out of the way place in 1676. The nearest farms at that time were in the vicinity of Annisquam, with nothing more than a rough trail thence around the end of the cape to Pigeon Cove. It seems hardly likely, therefore, that this house in the woods could have furnished a convenient rallying place in case of danger. Moreover, from a military point of view, the location of the house, more or less in a hollow, would make it anything but easy of defense. It is no easier to understand, however, why the Procter boys should have built such a massive structure as a simple habitation for their mother and themselves.

Regardless of the reason for its building, or of by whom it was built, it sturdily stands today as one of the earliest remaining houses in Essex County. The old portion must certainly antedate Joshua Norwood's ownership. Subsequent owners made additions from time to time, the most recent probably being attributable to Moses Wheeler, who lived there from 1778 to 1824.

Joshua Norwood, having acquired land at Gap Head across Sandy Bay, sold the Garrison House farm March 15, 1731/32, to Elias Davis as about 140 acres for 850 pounds. It is doubtful if Davis ever lived there. He died in February, 1734, and his will stated that he lived in a house which he bought of Captain Joseph Allen, which was located on the other side of the cape. To his son Job he bequeathed "my farm at the Cape" as bought from

Joshua Norwood. Job Davis married, intentions October 21, 1740, Thomasine Greenleafe of Newbury. After his death his widow sold to John Procter of Ipswich, not unlikely a relative of the "witch," February 20, 1753, for 293 pounds, 6 shillings, 8 pence.

Procter appears to have gone back to Ipswich eventually, and on January 5, 1778, he sold to Moses Wheeler of Gloucester, fisherman, for 666 pounds, 13 shillings, 4 pence. These somewhat widely varying prices do not so much represent the changed value of the property as they do the frequent ups and downs of the local currency of the times. Davis' deed to Procter included a 12-acre woodlot, and the latter's wife acquired a piece adjacent thereto. Procter himself bought the Samuel Gott, Jr., place, about 15 acres (265 Granite Street), and these were all conveyed to Moses Wheeler.

Moses Wheeler married Susanna Woodbury, a daughter of Captain John of Folly Cove, in 1779, a year after he bought the Garrison House place. His parents were Moses and Susanna (Norwood), the latter a daughter of Joshua Norwood. She had been born in The Garrison House. Moses' uncle, Benjamin Wheeler, owned the adjacent Old Castle farm. Moses died at The Garrison House in November, 1824. By his will he left his entire property to his wife for life. At her death the real estate was to go to his sons, Austin and John Woodbury. His other children were to receive modest sums of money. Some at least had already received gifts of land during Moses' lifetime. In 1825 the widow and the two sons above named agreed that the son Charles should also inherit a third of the land, and in 1833 they exchanged deeds dividing the property. The old house and the immediately adjacent land went to John W. In 1848 he sold to Elijah Edmands, who had married John's sister, Jane Wheeler. In 1852 Edmands sold to his son James, who immediately sold to James B. Higginson, a brother of Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson, the author. Mr. Higginson died two years later and his widow sold in 1856 to Joseph Babson, whose estate sold to Hooker I. Coggeshall of New Jersey, and he to Oliver E. Williams, the present owner, in 1925.



## THE OLD CASTLE

THE FARM on which The Old Castle stands included seven of the original lots, numbers 54 to 59. It had a frontage on the highway from the Cape Ann Tool Company's office building, 144 Granite Street, southerly to the line between 139 and 141 on that street. On its northwesterly end it was considerably wider than on the sea front, making a fan-shaped piece. Its westerly corner was probably about 100 feet west of the junction of Pigeon Hill Street and Stockholm Avenue. From that point its back boundary ran northeast to a point about 600 feet east of Curtis Street, which it crossed between numbers 31 and 33. The older deeds gave its extent as about 100 acres, but a survey made in 1810 found only 71 acres. Several small street front house lots had been sold off between 1791 and 1810, but they were not large enough in the aggregate to account for so great a shrinkage. The boundaries of this farm can be pretty accurately followed in *Hopkins' Atlas of Gloucester and Rockport*, published in 1884.

A detailed account of this farm has been published (1939) by the Village Improvement Society of Pigeon Cove, the present owner of The Old Castle and its immediate surroundings, therefore a summary only is included in these records.

The original lots within this farm had been acquired before 1709 by Francis Norwood senior and by his son Joshua, and, as is stated in the story of The Garrison House, the latter inherited his father's interest in 1709. Joshua sold the property to Jethro Wheeler, "late of Rowley now of Gloucester," December 12, 1712, describing it as "upland and swampy land" about 100 acres in extent with "the appurtenances to the same belonging," for 150 pounds. No buildings of any kind were specifically mentioned in the deed. If any existed at the time they were probably covered by the word "appurtenances," which was intended to include improvements of every nature.

Some have been inclined to think that The Old Castle may have been built, begun at least, by Joshua Norwood, others that it was even older, and that it was there when the six-acre lots were laid out in 1688. When the house was restored by the Improvement Society about 1930, under the direction of Thomas

Williams, who was familiar with early New England building practices, it was found to contain a number of features peculiar to seventeenth century houses. The sizes of the brick in the oldest part of the chimney were those in use earlier than 1712, and they had been laid in clay, a practice that had largely gone out of use in this section by 1700.

The idea that the house had been built before 1688 was based upon a piece of grimy and time-stained board bearing the figures 1678 that had been found in an upper room in the course of earlier repairs, about 1893. Since it was impossible to determine the origin of that dated board, no great dependence could be placed upon it as evidence.

Francis Norwood senior died March 4, 1708/09, bequeathing to Joshua "sixty acres . . . att the head of the Cape by piggion cove." This land was listed in the inventory of Francis' estate as "about Sixtty acc<sup>s</sup> of land leying neare pidgeon cove so-called on the Cape and on which land Joshua Norwood now dwells."

Deeds show that Francis owned lot 54, the site of The Old Castle, also 49, 50, 51 and 53 north of The Old Castle, and 56, 57, and 59 south of there. It is also known from deeds that Joshua himself owned, before his father's death, lots 43, 48, and 58. There is no telling on which of those lots Joshua was living at the time of his father's death. Inasmuch as Francis owned lot 49, which is presumed to be the site of The Garrison House, it is as likely that Joshua was living there as that he was in or near The Old Castle.

Be that as it may, the first documentary evidence of a house on the Old Castle farm is found in a mortgage, February 13, 1716/17, when Jethro Wheeler borrowed 100 pounds from the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and pledged 100 acres of land and "all houses." Three years earlier, just after his purchase of the Old Castle farm, he had mortgaged the place to Jonathan Springer of Gloucester for 200 pounds, but no buildings were mentioned in that instrument, not even appurtenances. That mortgage must have been discharged before he borrowed of the Province. These facts lead to the thought that perhaps Wheeler built The Old Castle with that first 200 pounds, and that he needed the other 100 pounds with which to complete it. And yet 300 pounds,



amounting to about \$1,000 in Provincial money, would seem to be an exorbitant cost for building that house in those times.

The origin of the name, The Old Castle, is also shrouded in mystery. Twenty deeds and mortgages covering this property between 1712 and 1898 have been examined, and only in one, a deed of 1882, was the name Old Castle used. It was also so called in the oldest known existing tax list of Pigeon Cove properties, that of 1853. It is possible that the name was early applied because of its looming up conspicuously at the head of the cove, in a manner more or less suggestive of the castles along the coast of the old country.

Jethro Wheeler was a native of Newbury, born March 28, 1664. He married Hannah French of Rowley, July 2, 1690. He was a son of David and Sarah (Wise). His grandfather was John Wheeler who came to America from Salisbury, England, about 1634, and who had lived in Ipswich, Salisbury, and Newbury. Jethro was a tanner and cordwainer (shoemaker). His ten children were all born in Rowley, and nine of them lived to accompany their father and mother to Pigeon Cove. In 1724, when Jethro was sixty years old, he sold the Old Castle farm to his son Benjamin for 600 pounds, and returned to Rowley where he died the following year.

Benjamin Wheeler, who was a seafaring man, was born to Jethro at Rowley, March 23, 1694/5. He married first a cousin, Mehitable Wheeler of Rowley, intentions October 15, 1720. Their ten children were born at Pigeon Cove. At some time before 1764, Benjamin and his wife moved to Ipswich where he had bought land. Mehitable died at Ipswich, August 4, 1766. The following year, November 26, 1767, Benjamin married again, his wife being Sarah Woodbury of Rowley. On February 25, 1769, Benjamin and his new wife, Sarah, deeded the Old Castle property to Benjamin Wheeler, Jr., for 80 pounds. Apparently he and a brother Moses had been living there since the father moved to Ipswich, except, perhaps, for a short time when Benjamin junior lived on Plum Island. Benjamin senior died at Ipswich, January 1, 1779, and Sarah died April 26, 1814.

Benjamin Wheeler, Jr., was born at Pigeon Cove, April 14, 1722. He was described in legal papers as a yeoman and fisherman. His

first wife was Elizabeth Pulcifer, intentions December 19, 1746. She died soon after and he married Sarah Dane of Ipswich, intentions August 16 and 19, 1749. Of their eleven children all were born at Pigeon Cove, save one. The tenth child, John Dane Wheeler, was born in Ipswich in 1769, presumably when the parents were living on Plum Island. From 1769, when he purchased The Old Castle from his father, until his death in 1810, Benjamin junior and Sarah lived continuously at the old homestead.

Between 1791 and 1805 he deeded parts of his farm to four of his sons. These pieces were mostly house lots along the Granite Street frontage. To John Dane, however, he deeded the western half of The Old Castle itself. That was in 1792, the year in which this son married Anna Tuttle at Hamilton, and the deed stated that it was in consideration of John Dane's having expended 25 pounds "in building a back leanter (or long kitching room) the whole length of my dwelling house." This fixes the date of the addition of the leanto on the north side. The deed gave full title to the west end of the house, privileges in the cellar and the well, the right of passage around the house, but no title to any part of the surrounding soil. John Dane died in 1803, leaving a widow and three children, who continued to live there for several years. Their successors continued to own that half of the house until 1892, when it was sold to the Story family.

In 1802, Benjamin junior and his wife deeded the east half of The Castle to their youngest son, Daniel, but retained a life estate. Three years later they deeded this son a piece of land on the opposite side of Granite Street on which he soon after built a tavern which he conducted until 1838. Benjamin junior died June 10, 1810. His wife presumably died before November 26, 1814, on which date her dower was distributed. The heirs of Daniel continued to own the east end of the old house until 1893, when that also was sold to the Story family.

In 1929 the Story heirs deeded the entire house and the land east to Granite Street to the Village Improvement Society of Pigeon Cove with the stipulation that it be restored, and thereafter maintained as an historic monument and community center, in memory of Abbie F. Story (Mrs. Henry L. Story), a founder of the Improvement Society in 1889.



## PIGEON HILL FARM

THE SOUTHEASTERLY SLOPES of Pigeon Hill were included within the eleven lots of the 1688 grants numbered from 60 to 70. The three lots, 60 to 62, were consolidated as one property between 1712 and 1717. They lay along Granite Street from the present line between 139 and 141 Granite Street, to the line between 121 and 123. The southerly side of that property on the hillside is marked by the southern boundary of Landmark Lane.

Lot 60 was acquired from the original grantee by John Hadley senior, who lived on the shore of Gloucester Harbor, opposite Five Pound Island, which he owned. He died in 1711 and the following year his widow deeded the lot to John Harris senior of Ipswich, gunsmith and under sheriff, for 4 pounds. About the same time Harris bought lot 61 from Andrew Riggs. He also bought other scattering lots along the shore, presumably by way of speculation. Harris died at Ipswich, September 15, 1714, leaving his Pigeon Hill land to three grandsons, John, William and Daniel, sons of John junior. When the highway, now Granite Street, was laid out in 1716, the description credited this land to John Harris for a width of 742 feet, which distance would include three lots. This leads to the conclusion that the grandsons must have bought lot 62 from Jabez Baker, who had himself acquired it that very year, 1716.

One of the Harris grandsons is presumed to have built a house on that land, but which one is uncertain. A very ancient story and a half leanto house stood, until within recent years, on the frontage of 133 Granite Street. It seems likely that it was built by one of the Harrises. There is some evidence to indicate that it was built, not by the grandsons but by their uncle, Thomas Harris. This Thomas had inherited from his father three small pieces of land at Sandy Bay, next west of the Mill Brook. These he sold in September, 1715, to Richard Tarr senior. He had perhaps been living somewhere in Gloucester since 1711, in which year he was "warned out" by the Selectmen. That was a formality quite indiscriminately applied by all New England towns at that time to all new comers, rich or poor, to forestall their claiming the right of public support at any future day in

case of adversity. On August 3, 1720, Thomas was certainly living on the Pigeon Hill land that was formerly his father's, for on that day the Town granted him a piece of common land "at the head of his own land at Pigeon Hill." This, the grant stated, was in compensation for the highway through his property. Two years later, November 28, 1722, he sold this as about 1½ acres "by land of my own by Pigeon Hill, at the head of said land of my own," and described it as being bounded by the fence between Harris and Wheeler (Jethro Wheeler of The Old Castle) and as cornering on a tree "in or near the line of the land sequestered for a sea mark." The purchaser was John Porter of Wenham, one of the owners of the lots next south, 63 to 70.

Two years later, December 30, 1724, Daniel Harris, then of Marblehead, one of the three grandsons named in the will, sold to John Kimball and Thomas Tarbox of Wenham, for 20 pounds, his interest in 18 acres "as bequeathed." These men were part owners of the land next south. Two years later still, May 17, 1726, William Harris of Salem, blacksmith, he being another of those grandsons, conveyed to Daniel Harris of Newbury, joiner (presumably formerly of Marblehead), for 8 pounds, 10 shillings, 6 acres "at the Cape." This looks like the surrender of his share in the title in the land already sold to Kimball and Tarbox. No release from the other grandson, John, has been found. Possibly he had died. And there is no recorded deed from Thomas other than the one above cited, which fact prompts the conclusion that he never did have any ownership in the three lots, though he probably lived there and may have built the house.

Meantime the lots from 63 to 70 had been changing hands with such frequency as to suggest speculative buying, and some of these purchasers had secured bits of common land west of the lots, which carried their boundaries over on to the western side of the hill.

Meantime, also, on March 5, 1712/13, the Commoners at one of their meetings voted that "all the Common that belongs to the Town upon Piggon Hill is to lie comon still perpetually to bee for a sea mark." The complete story of that hilltop reservation has already been told in a separate chapter.

By 1716 the seven lots from 63 to 69 had been acquired by a



group of men who were referred to in one deed as John Kimball & Co. They also at some time bought lot 70. The partners in that Company were John Kimball and Thomas Tarbox of Wenham, and William Lamson and Daniel Gilbert of Ipswich, and later John Porter, John Porter, Jr., and Jonathan Porter of Wenham. Their consolidated interest extended from the line between 139 and 141 Granite Street to the south side of Rowe Avenue.

Daniel Gilbert withdrew from the partnership May 15, 1717, when he sold his quarter interest in the land and a dwelling house for 32 pounds 10 shillings. These men appear to have been engaged in raising livestock, rather than in agriculture, for one of the deeds covering this property called it "the pasture commonly known by the name of Pigion Hill."

In 1751 the Dodge family of Wenham began to buy into the partnership, one of its principal representatives being Barnabas Dodge who, little by little, acquired the shares of the others until in 1783 he had sole possession. The following year, October 11, 1784, Barnabas Dodge, gentleman, of Wenham, and his wife Hannah, conveyed to John Rowe of Gloucester, gentleman, "My whole farm known as Pigion Hill" about 114 acres, 14 acres of woodland adjoining . . . running westerly to the path from Sandy Bay to Jumpers, 6 other acres adjoining, and 3 acres next the woodland, formerly the property of John Langsford. Together these made a property of 137 acres. A copy of a plan of the farm, made in 1794 by William Saville, is in the collections of the Sandy Bay Historical Society. That plan includes lot 71, which was not owned by Dodge, it having been bought by Major Rowe of John Pool's heirs.

John Rowe who bought from Dodge was he who commanded the local militia at Bunker Hill. Later he was commissioned major, the title by which he was ever after known. He was a great-grandson of John and Bridget Row who emigrated to America in 1651. His parents were Lieutenant John and Mary (Baker) Row. Major John's first wife was Sarah Pool who was the mother of his thirteen children. His second wife was Mrs. Elizabeth Adams of Newbury. Sarah had died November 13, 1789, 50 years old. Major Rowe died in 1801 at Ballston Springs, N. Y., whither he had gone in an effort to recover his health. By

his will, executed April 17, 1800, and probated August 3, 1801, he left his farm and live stock to his son William, born June 4, 1761, and who married Elizabeth Dennison. The inventory of the Major's estate listed four houses, the mansion house, barn and yard, \$1400; "the old house" (probably that of John Kimball & Co.) "and barn, standing in front of the mansion house," \$150; "the new house opposite the mansion house on the eastern side of the highway" and one-quarter acre of land, \$650; and the dwelling house occupied by Gideon Lescom and the land adjoining "upon the northeasternmost corner of said farm," \$160. The latter house was the one presumably built by Harris prior to 1724, and which stood at 133 Granite Street. Only one of those houses, the mansion, remains. The cellar of the "new House" is now the sunken garden just north of the stone house, 87 Granite Street, near the quarry bridge.

William Rowe, who inherited the farm, lived there until his death, January 22, 1824. His sons Samuel and Amos succeeded in title and both lived on the property. From 1828 to about 1840 they sold the land along Granite Street, most of it for house sites, but some of it for quarrying.

#### THE WOODS SETTLEMENTS

THUS FAR all the farms mentioned have fronted in whole or in part on Granite Street. Between 1708 and 1790 several other small settlements were made west of that highway in the rear of the Garrison House, Old Castle and Pigeon Hill farms. That was then a region of dense woods and had been owned by the Commoners until 1723, when the section was laid out in long and narrow woodlots. They were known as the Eastern Division woodlots, and were based on a north and south line now represented by that part of the town line between the "Old Rockport Road" near "Nugent's Stretch" and the line monument just west of Johnson's quarry. At that point there is an angle in the town line and the latter diverges slightly to the northeast from the old lot line. From that base line the woodlots, about 330 feet wide, ran northeasterly to the western boundaries of the farms.



Some portions of that Common woodland had been acquired prior to 1723 by the owners of the adjacent farms, and at least one piece of about three acres, at the northwest foot of Pigeon Hill, had been granted to William Sargent before 1707. This he sold February 26, 1707/8, to Richard Langsford, husbandman, at other times called fisherman, who had already secured another small piece of the adjacent Common, and these he made the nucleus of a farm on which he settled. It seems likely that he was there as early as 1719, in which year he married Mary Row, daughter of Hugh. When he died, May 21, 1739, he had a farm of about 25 acres lying on both sides of Pigeon Hill Street, west of Stockholm Avenue, and extending also somewhat east of the latter. His house seems to have stood in the vicinity of the one now number 36 Pigeon Hill Street, judging from certain deed descriptions, and it was standing as late as 1834, when it belonged to Captain Daniel Wheeler of the tavern and was occupied by Josiah Witham. The timbering in the easterly end of the existing house is plainly very old.

The Langsfords were credited with ten children in the Town records: Elizabeth, born 1720, John 1722, Mary 1724, Sarah and Martha 1726, Abigail 1729, Thomas and Richard 1731, Thomas 1734, Anna 1738. The son John succeeded to the farm subject to his mother's dower, but it is doubtful if he lived there, for he had a house at Lane's Cove. The mother died May 7, 1774, 83 years old. Eventually the old place was sold, in part to Barnabas Dodge, in part to Moses Wheeler of The Garrison House, and in part, perhaps including the house, to Benjamin Wheeler of The Old Castle.

Another early settler in the woods was Stephen Gott senior, fisherman, a son of Lieutenant Samuel of Gott Avenue. He had a five-acre woodlot, the eastern end of lot 88, that his father acquired from the Town in 1727. Curtis Street cuts through the eastern end of the lot. On the western side of the street the houses numbered from 42 to 50 are all on that land. On the easterly side of Curtis Street the lot included numbers 35 to 49. In a westerly direction the land apparently extended to beyond Stockholm Avenue.

Stephen Gott married Eunice Emmons, November 13, 1729,

and not unlikely built his house at that time. He did not take title to the land, however, until after his father's death in 1748, for the latter's will gave to Stephen one-half a woodlot "where his house is." Stephen had six children: Stephen, born September 18, 1731, married his cousin, Patience Gott, daughter of Daniel and Rachel, January 9, 1755; Abner, February 21, 1735/36, married Mary Ingersoll February 2, 1758; Eunice, baptized April 9, 1738, married first Benjamin Stockbridge, intentions November 15, 1755, second John Thursten June 11, 1760; Martha, baptized October 26, 1740, married Hezekiah Lane January 15, 1760; Lois, baptized September 23, 1750, married Samuel Wonsen, Jr., March 14, 1773; Esther, baptized March 21, 1756, married John Pearce, Jr., August 20, 1775.

Shortly before his death, Stephen senior sold his home place to Epes Sargent, Jr., May 22, 1759. After his death his widow sold one additional acre, which was probably west of Stockholm Avenue, to William Norwood December 24, 1763.

When Stephen junior, fisherman, married in 1755, he built a house on part of his father's land, probably on the westerly end near the brook. Two years later, March 13, 1757, he was deeded this piece as  $2\frac{3}{4}$  acres, but sold it on April 9 of that year to Daniel Sargent, gentleman, for 40 pounds lawful money. It is thought that the house now on the lot, sometimes called the William Knutsford place, may be the one built by Stephen junior.

Similarly when Stephen senior's daughter married Benjamin Stockbridge in 1755 her father deeded an acre and a half, "to the westward of my dwelling house," to the son-in-law. This deed was dated February 9, 1756. Stockbridge thereupon built the gambrel-roofed house that is located in the rear of 46 Curtis Street. Stockbridge died soon after and his widow married John Thursten, fisherman, in 1760.

Stephen Gott senior's place was owned by the Sargent family for 32 years, though it is not known that any of that family lived there. During that period the house burned or was moved or torn down, for when the property was sold by Epes Sargent, 3<sup>d</sup>, July 9, 1791, the deed stated that it covered the land "on which formerly stood the dwelling house of Stephen Gott." William Marchant, mariner, was the new owner. He also bought other



neighboring land, built a new house and lived there until his death. His widow, Hannah, sold to Aaron Wheeler, December 31, 1810, who, prior to 1799, had owned a place at Lane's Cove where he may have lived. The Marchant place was sold by Wheeler to John and William Fears and Ezra Eames, quarrymen, April 2, 1838.

The Stockbridge place was sold by Thursten to William Norwood, April 17, 1761, and his son James Norwood sold it to Moses Wheeler of The Garrison House, September 6, 1785, together with a piece of land adjoining on the south and west. It is not improbable that Moses' mother, Susanna (Norwood), lived there until her death in 1810. According to the Federal tax of 1798 she was then living in a house owned by Moses. The place had probably been rented by the Norwoods during their ownership. Almost thirty years after Wheeler's purchase he sold to Thomas and Stephen (junior) Knutsford, fishermen, in October 1814. Stephen Knutsford, Jr., sold his half interest to Thomas, July 29, 1831.

Stephen Gott, Jr.'s house and part of his land by the Norwood Mill Brook came to be owned by David Lane, who sold it to Thomas Knutsford, August 15, 1810, as "land whereon there stands a small dwelling house a small distance to the westward of a small dwelling house formerly William Marchant's." Thomas deeded this to his brothers, Stephen junior and William, July 20, 1831, as "the land and house thereon where they now dwell, the same I bought for them of David Lane." The Knutsford family continued to own both the Curtis Street house and the one in the brook valley until 1893.

A somewhat later settler in that region was the progenitor of the Blatchford family of Cape Ann. There are numerous entries relative to him and his family in the Town of Gloucester records, but it was with difficulty that his habitation in this neighborhood was finally located, since there are no deeds of record to or from him covering that site. The quest was further complicated, owing to the fact that the recorders seldom spelled his name twice alike. In some cases the recorded aliases were scarcely more than suggestive of the true name. Once or twice the name was correctly spelled, sometimes it was almost right as in Blachford and Blanch-

ford, but on other occasions it was set down as Blatchpill, Blanchfill, Blackfield, Blanchfield, and Blanch.

The location of his Pigeon Cove homestead of four acres, a part of Woodlot No. 80, Eastern Division, was determined through a deed dated 1797, covering the westerly end of that lot, which stated that it abutted east on John Blanch's "piece of same lot." That deed was so complete in its description, with compass courses and distances, that it was possible to fix "Blanch's" westerly corners quite definitely on the map. Even at the present day the place is locally known as "Blanch's," though few now living know the meaning of the name, or why the locality is so called. An owner of neighboring property was found who pointed out the ancient cellar and the shallow well. The house stood beside the old road known as "the path from Sandy Bay to Jumper's," and the land lay on both sides of that way. That particular portion of "the path" is now incorporated in the road from Pigeon Hill Street to Johnson's quarry, and the cellar is close beside the fifth telephone pole from the corner of Pigeon Hill Street.

In some pages of manuscript notes in the collections of the Sandy Bay Historical Society, written perhaps by Ebenezer Pool, the local antiquary of a century ago, it is stated that John Blatchford was born in Devonshire, England, about 1702, that he emigrated to Portsmouth, N. H., and went from there to Salem, Mass., where he was employed by Captain Richard Derby. According to this account Blatchford was a gardener and coachman for Captain Derby, who was the richest merchant in that port, but the tradition in the Blatchford family is that he sailed in one of Derby's brigs on foreign voyages, and items of furniture now owned in the family are said to have been brought home by him from England. It is further stated that he came to Cape Ann about 1754, which was the year before his first marriage. It is also there stated that the year of his birth, 1702, was based upon a family tradition that he was about 14 years old when he was present at a barbecue that took place on the frozen River Thames in England in January, 1716. It would seem that John J. Babson had seen these notes when he was writing his *History of Gloucester*, published in 1860, for in the paragraph that he devoted to John Blatchford he recited the above facts



with some variations. They are also recounted in a volume written and privately printed in 1865 by Charles J. Bushnell. This is a reprint, with additional notes, of the narrative of John Blatchford, Jr.'s experiences in the Revolution, originally written by himself and printed in 1788.

Blatchford married Rachel Clark, daughter of Samuel, in Gloucester, January 7, 1755, and the record terms him a "sojourner," meaning a foreigner or stranger. They were credited with 6 sons and 2 daughters: Molly, baptized June 19, 1757, married — Craven; John, baptized September 2, 1759, married Anna Grover March 4, 1784; William, baptized August 2, 1761, died young; Rachael, baptized October 23, 1763, no marriage or death record; Samuel, baptized May 26, 1765, married Lydia Clark, intentions March 30, 1785; Nathaniel, baptized September 20, 1767, married Nabby Cloughlin of Sandy Bay October 2, 1790; Henry, born August 30, 1769, married Hannah Gammage of Sandy Bay March 15, 1791; Jonathan, baptized June 30, 1771, died young.

The son John junior, who had been in the naval service in the Revolution and was a prisoner of war for a long period, was a Representative in the General Court in 1834 and 1835 when 75 years old. Nathaniel died January 11, 1852, 85 years old, and Henry died in 1853, 84 years old.

Rachel, the mother, must have died before June 7, 1771, for on that day John Blanchford (Blanchfill in the notice of intentions) married Mary Morgan. Here he was again recorded as a sojourner, even though he had then lived in Gloucester for all of sixteen years. Mary was probably the daughter of Paul and Ruth (Lane) Morgan who was born May 8, 1741 or 1742 (the record is not clear), and if so her mother was a daughter of Deacon James Lane, a large land owner in Lanesville. John and Mary had two children according to the records, but both died in infancy, one June 26, 1773, the other January —, 1775. The records show that Mary Blanchford died October 7, 1792. On January 8, 1795, John Blanchfill married again, this time Mrs. Sarah Clark. On this occasion he was not termed a foreigner.

It is said by his descendants that Mr. Blatchford at one time lived at Sandy Bay village, and that his house stood on the sea-

ward side of what is now Main Street, Rockport, a little west of the Granite Savings Bank building. This tradition appears to be borne out by the fact that he bought from the Commoners, May 13, 1760, "a small piece of land . . . on the northerly side of the way leading from Capt. Samuel Davis' (near Long Cove) to John Pool's." The lot was said to be 8 rods wide on the highway and to run north to the sea, its easterly boundary being a reserved cart road leading to the shore. The Savings Bank building probably stands on the corner next that "cart road."

For this land he paid 20 shillings. Eleven years later, June 27, 1771, or just after he had married his second wife, he conveyed this same land with "appurtenances," which word probably covered a house and other improvements, to David Plummer of Gloucester, trader, "in trust for the Town of Gloucester forever." The compensation stated in the deed was 10 pounds, or ten times what he had paid for the land. That in itself seems to indicate that a house was included. This deed gave the area of the lot as 27 square rods (6,806 sq. ft.) and stated that it was bounded north on "Sand bay beach." The intention of that trust has not been determined. The trust deed was not recorded at Salem until February 1, 1803, which was about a year after Mr. Blatchford's death. A search of the deeds from the Town of Gloucester after that date might reveal what was done with that land and if the trust was abrogated.

Nothing has been found to indicate when Mr. Blatchford settled on his part of woodlot No. 80. It is surmised, however, that it was not until after he had married his second wife, Mary Morgan, June 7, 1771. It will be noted that Mary was probably a granddaughter of Deacon James Lane. When he died in 1751 he owned a large part of the land lying between Lane's Cove and Folly Cove, also ten and a half woodlots in the Eastern Division of 1722/23. One of the latter parcels was the western end of lot 80 which was sold in 1797 to James Norwood by the heirs of Deacon Lane, the deed stating that the land abutted easterly on John Blanch's land. It seems not unreasonable to assume that Mary had been given the four acres in lot 80 at the time of her marriage, and that her husband thereupon built a house there.

In the effort to learn the facts concerning this man a search



was made in the assessment records at Gloucester City Hall. The earliest preserved book of this nature deals with abatements and with the care of the poor and is dated 1784. An entry there states that the Town "Agreed with Mr. John Blanch to keep Anna Stanwood at 9 pounds a year." Anna, it later appears, was about six years old at that time. This arrangement continued for two or three years. The next record relative to the subject is found in the valuation book of the Assessors for 1797, which is the earliest one of its kind that has been preserved. There it appears that John Blackfield, "past his labor," meaning aged and infirm, had a "small dwelling house and about 4 acres," obviously located back of Pigeon Hill. The valuation books from 1797 through 1801 show John Blatchfield listed as above. In 1802 the place was assessed to his widow, and again in 1803. After that no mention is made of the place.

In 1804, Joseph Bailey was for the first time assessed for a house on the Daniel Gott place, 275 Granite Street, which seems to bear out the tradition in the Bailey family that Joseph moved the "Blanch" house from "the Sheep Pasture" and set it up on the land that he had just bought from the Daniel Gott heirs.

These were all relatively remote locations, but a reference to the map will show that there were several so-called roads leading into and through the section. The road from Folly Cove (now Woodbury Street at its northern end) to Squam Hill and Sandy Bay, "the path to Jumper's," was probably the earliest. The next one, judging from the language of certain deeds, was probably "the road into the woods," now the northerly end of Curtis Street, from Granite Street to 46 Curtis Street. Later this portion of that road was known as Goose Lane and as School House Lane. This road was extended to Stephen Gott, Jr.'s house and thence across the Mill Brook to Langsford's and to Jumper's path.

Andrew Woodbury, Jr., a member of the Lanesville and Folly Cove family, married Judith Bootman, intentions November 20, 1754. His house lot, 69 Curtis Street, on which the two story house still stands, was probably bought from William Norwood, but no deed of record has been found. The earliest discovered reference to the house is in a deed from Joseph Wheeler to James Story in 1790, which states, as will be noted below, that

Mr. Woodbury was then deceased. It is not impossible that he may have built the house about the time of his marriage in 1754. The Woodburys had a number of children, among them Walter, baptized October 20, 1764, who married Polly Lane November 29, 1788, and Peter, born April 23, 1772, who married Rebecca Marchant, intentions August 27, 1796.

In 1797, Peter was taxed for half a dwelling house, half a barn, and half an acre, the other occupant of the place being Jabez Marchant. His wife was Rebecca Woodbury, probably a daughter of Peter and Betty (Griffin), whom he married November 25, 1779. Mrs. Judith Woodbury, widow of Andrew junior, was perhaps living there in 1790 when she was listed in the Federal census as the head of a family with one boy under sixteen years of age, probably Walter, and two girls. The death dates of Andrew and Judith are not known. Peter owned the property in 1808, but in 1811 it was acquired by his brother Walter from a Newburyport man who had come into partial possession in satisfaction of a debt of \$60 incurred by Peter. On July 20, 1813, Walter sold the place to James Clarkson whose wife, Sophia, was a daughter of Moses Wheeler of The Garrison House. After five years Clarkson sold, July 1, 1818, to Benjamin R. Bray, mariner, and John Harris, gentleman. Bray acquired Harris' interest and lived there until September 12, 1860, when he sold to his son Benjamin, then of Winchester, Mass. Four years later, March 15, 1864, the son sold to Benjamin Fretch, whose family lived there until within recent years. Peter Woodbury was the father of Peter junior, who married Anna Wheeler, the daughter of John Dane Wheeler of The Old Castle.

What is now 64 Curtis Street was settled upon by James Story from Chebacco in 1790, whereupon he was duly "warned out" by the Town. He had served in the Continental Army from Ipswich and had married Sarah Woodbury in April 1786. Joseph Wheeler sold him the eastern end of a 4-acre woodlot bounding west on the Norwood Mill Brook, September 3, 1790. This lot was said to abut easterly on "the highway from the dwelling of Andrew Woodbury deceased," *i.e.*, Curtis Street. Mr. Story built a two story house, probably in 1791. He had 4 sons and 8 daughters. Mr. Story died December 16, 1851, and his wife



died January 12, 1854. An unmarried daughter, Lucy, continued in the house until her death in 1865. Two years later, February 19, 1867, the heirs sold the place to William H. Mackay, who conveyed it to his brother David. He subsequently tore down the old house and built the present one. An excellent water color drawing of the old house is owned by the descendants of David Mackay.

Opposite the James Story place there stands a small house, number 63, which was first mentioned in a deed dated 1794. On Washington's Birthday in that year Moses Wheeler of The Garrison House deeded "Half an acre where Job Knights house now stands." Knights, a fisherman, was the purchaser, and the price that he paid was 7 pounds, 10 shillings Lawful Money. The Knights family continued to live there for about eighty years and then sold to Austin W. Story who in turn sold in 1874 to Michael Counihan, describing the property in the deed as located on a private way "called School house lane." The deed also stated that it was the land conveyed by Moses Wheeler to Job Knights in 1794.

Opposite the Benjamin Stockbridge house there is another old dwelling in the rear of 33 Curtis Street. The earliest reference to it is in a deed to Charles Wheeler, a son of Moses, when the latter's estate was being distributed. The deed was dated November 5, 1833, and it included a small piece of land and a house, which, according to the deed, was then occupied by Solomon Knights. Three years later Charles Wheeler conveyed the place to John and Thomas Knights for \$145.



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## *The North Village of 1840*

**A**T THE TIME of Rockport's incorporation as a town in February, 1840, Pigeon Cove was showing unmistakable signs of business bustle and expansion. Quarrying on an organized commercial scale had been under way for several years, quite upsetting the quiet of the hitherto farming-fishing hamlet. Things were definitely booming in 1840. At least two companies and one or two individuals were getting out building stone for which there was a ready market, and every ledge and rocky pasture acquired a speculative value.

As early as 1823, Nehemiah Knowlton had met with considerable success cutting up large boulders that were perched on the shore in the neighborhood of the present-day Federated Church on Granite Street. Three years later a Quincy man, William Torrey, came to Pigeon Cove and bought an acre of shore front at Folly Cove for \$110.50 and began quarrying the shore ledges and boulders. This was a part of the Samuel Lane farm of 1707, and lay between Granite Street and the sea opposite the old Lane house, then owned by Nathaniel Lane. Torrey bought his shore piece from Daniel Marchant, Jr., possibly 3rd. In 1831, Torrey bought the ledge that then lay along the roadside where now the houses stand that are numbered 100 and 102 Granite Street.

Meantime two other concerns began operations. The partners in one of those enterprises were two young men, Ezra Eames from Holliston, Mass., and Beniah Colburn from Wentworth, N. H. In 1829 they bought from the heirs of Benjamin Wheeler, Jr., the great ledge that then rose to a height of nearly thirty feet from the easterly side of Granite Street between numbers 143 and 151 of the present day. The pit lying east of the Granite Street houses is a relic of that operation, which was carried on until about 1840.

In October, 1830, five men from Quincy and Cambridge, Mass., organized the Boston & Gloucester Granite Company, and bought



from the heirs of William Rowe of Pigeon Hill Farm, a piece of land lying on both sides of Granite Street between Rowe Lane and the quarry bridge. They also bought a piece that lay next south of the Rowe land. Zacheris Green, a native of Carlisle, Mass., but then of Cambridge, was the president of that company. After ten years of activity the company dissolved, and in 1841 a new set of partners bought the property and continued the business. Messrs. Eames, Colburn and Torrey were members of that partnership, and with them were associated Joshua Sanborn and John Stimson. The latter was from Ludlow, Vt., and had married Mr. Green's daughter Eliza. In 1845, Mr. Stimson bought out his partners for \$10,000 and became the sole operator. Later, Charles S. Rogers, whose father, George D. Rogers, had married Mr. Stimson's sister Anna, became associated with this quarry and his family has been connected there to the present time.

These quarrying activities had attracted a considerable number of young workmen, chiefly country lads from various parts of northern New England, who were looking for jobs. Many of those who stayed married here, and as a result more houses began to go up along Granite Street. A number of native men, not all connected with the granite industry, also built houses along this street, so that in 1840 the north village of the new town presented a far more populous appearance than it did in the farming days.

On the accompanying map there are shown all the houses that, so far as can be determined from the deeds, were standing in 1840. Where houses then standing have since been removed the sites are represented by hollow squares. There follows a summary of the origin of the houses of that period, number by number and street by street, throughout the village.

#### THE VILLAGERS AND THEIR HOMES IN 1840

##### GRANITE STREET

(Then called the Road to Sandy Bay)

87. This two story stone house, on the easterly side of the street, was built by Zacheris Green, president of the Boston & Gloucester Granite Company, at some time between 1830 and 1840, and

probably for his own occupancy. The earliest deed mentioning this house is dated January 24, 1840, at which time the company dissolved. "The Homestead, including the Mansion Houses, barn & other buildings thereon," were then conveyed to Mr. Green. The boundaries of the property were given as beginning at the corner of the highway and the wharf road south  $42^{\circ}$  west from the west corner of the stone house and 8 rods 10 links distant, then northerly by the highway to Samuel Parker's land, then easterly by Parker about 13 rods, then south  $31\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$  west by the wharf land and by the wharf road 22 rods, then south  $79\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  west 9 rods 22 links, then north  $59^{\circ}$  west by said road 3 rods 8 links to the highway at the first bound. One of the "Houses" included in this deed was a story and a half frame house that stood about 30 feet north of the stone house, and close beside the road. It was moved away many years ago, but its cellar is now the sunken garden connected with the stone house. That frame house was built by Major John Rowe, on a part of whose farm it stood, at some time between 1798 and 1801. Just one year after the transfer to Mr. Green he conveyed the property as land and buildings "commonly called the Homestead," one undivided half to his daughter Eliza, wife of John Stimson, the other half to Stimson himself. The Stimsons mortgaged back to Green for \$4,000. The debt was discharged in 1846, at which time Mrs. Stimson transferred her share to her husband for \$2,500 through Elijah Canney. That deed omitted any reference to the Homestead or the Mansion Houses, but covered "a stone building used as a boarding house." It was probably being operated by Mr. Canney at that time to house quarry workmen, and it was so used for many years thereafter. Mr. Canney came from Dover Neck, N. H., where the name is still known and pronounced Kenney. He acquired the house himself from Stimson, but in 1852 sold to Alexander McJannett, who probably continued it as a boarding house. In those days two large elm trees are said to have stood by the roadside in front of the house, and one of the deeds gives a walnut tree as one of the back corners of the land. Stimson retained the frame house and the adjacent land and continued to live there for some time thereafter.

On the opposite side of Granite Street, at the western end of



Rowe Lane, there still stands the "mansion house" built by Major John Rowe at some time between 1784, when he bought the Pigeon Hill Farm, and 1801, in which year he died. The "old house" mentioned in the Major's inventory as standing "in front of the mansion house" was probably removed by the son William, as it was not mentioned in the latter's inventory in 1824. The detailed story of the Rowe farm has already been given in these pages. (See chapter: Pigeon Hill Farm.)

50. The house now standing was built by William H. Davis, stone cutter, who, on April 3, 1839, bought land from the Rowe heirs, extending 310 feet northerly from Rowe Lane. On the same day Daniel Davis, also a stone cutter, and said to have been a brother of William, bought the land next north, 350 feet wide on the street. William died about 1850, leaving a widow and two minor sons. In 1865 and 1866 the sons sold their father's house to Aaron M. Brown. The house stands in 1940 substantially as it was built.

95. The house directly opposite the Davis house was built by John Stimson, but not until 1842. Numbers 52 and 54, next north of the Davis house, were not built until 1849.

68. Daniel Davis, a brother of William who built No. 50, built this house in 1839 or 1840 and immediately sold it with a 350 foot frontage for \$751. In 1843 it was again sold for \$800, and Joseph D. Stanley, a stone cutter, the purchaser, lived there for many years. A subsequent owner greatly enlarged the house and added a French roof. The other houses along that frontage, and numbered 52, 54, 60, 74, 76, 78, were built at various times between 1842 and 1853. Number 74 was the earliest, being built by Elbridge Witham about 1842. The house as originally built by Daniel Davis is presumed to have been on the same lines as his brother's house, No. 50.

101. The stone house under the elm trees on the easterly side of the street was built by Samuel Parker soon after he bought the land from the Rowe heirs on August 10, 1828. He was a blacksmith from Hollis, N. H., and had married Jane Boyd Rowe, a

daughter of William of Pigeon Hill Farm. The house was surely there on January 28, 1832, when he bought adjacent land from the Rowes described as north "of the lot on which his house stands." The following year he bought another piece south of the house, which gave him a 290 foot frontage on the street. The property is now owned and occupied by a descendant.

84. Beniah Colburn bought the site from the Rowes, 168 feet wide on the westerly side of the street, February 21, 1832, and that same year built a story and a half house which was much later enlarged to accommodate summer visitors. For this land he paid \$62.50. The following year, May 25, 1833, he bought another piece from the Rowes which was on the opposite side of the street from the house. This lot was 226 feet wide on the street and included the present numbers 115, 117, 119 Granite Street. This piece was known as "the bull rock pasture," as is learned from a deed dated 1908 given in the division of the estate of Ezra Eames. The "Bull Rock" was a high ledge on the sites of 117 and 119 that rose above the street level 20 feet or more. Mr. Colburn had married Sarah Ann Wheeler, daughter of Moses and Sally (Sargent).

88. On the street frontage of this lot formerly stood the District 9 South School House. The Committee of the District bought the land, 43 feet wide on the street, from the Rowes November 30, 1830. School was kept there until about 1850. It was then sold to a group of neighboring property owners who subsequently sold it to the village Universalist Society. Services were held there from 1857 to 1869. The property was then sold to Beniah Colburn and the building was moved to 102 Granite Street, where it now stands as a dwelling house. For a time after it was first moved it was used as a store.

90. Gustavus Norwood, Jr., mariner, sometimes known as 3<sup>d</sup>, bought the site of the house from David Babson and John and William Fears April 10, 1830. This lot, somewhat triangular in shape, had been a part of the original layout of Landmark Lane, but in 1819, when Babson and the Fears brothers bought the Land-



mark Field on the hilltop from the Town of Gloucester, this corner piece was included in the transaction. On November 26, 1830, Reuben Norwood, fisherman, a son of Gustavus junior, bought from the Rowes a piece next south of his father's and adjoining the school lot. The following year Reuben and his brother Gustavus 4<sup>th</sup> were drowned off Pigeon Cove and the son's land became the property of the father. That lot is now the garden end of number 90. Gustavus junior, the father, had married Sally Fears in 1802. She was a sister of John, William and Nathaniel. They had nine children. The present owner, Mayhew Main, is a grandson of Gustavus junior, the builder of the house. Gustavus was in the fifth generation from Francis senior of Goose Cove. His father was a son of Jonathan and grandson of Francis junior.

121. Across the street opposite Gustavus Norwood, Jr., his brother-in-law, Nathaniel Fears, fisherman, built a house at about the same time. On February 9, 1829, he bought his land from the Rowes, 105 feet wide on the street and running east to the sea. Nathaniel had married Betsy Rowe (called Ellen Augusta in the town records) June 11, 1827. They had five boys and five girls. The oldest child was Nathaniel junior, born December 17, 1829. He married Delia Long Rowe July 26, 1864. It is understood that it was then that a second story was built on the house so that the son might live there also.

123-127. The two houses now on that land, on the easterly side of the street, are of relatively modern origin. In the days when it was a part of the Rowe farm this piece of land was known as "the barley stubble." The northeast corner of the Rowe farm, including the barley stubble, and all else northerly to and including 139 Granite Street, and from the street to the sea, William Rowe, son of the Major, sold to Abraham Lurvey, mariner, August 31, 1805. Mr. Lurvey had married Anna Fears in December 1801. The old house probably built by Thomas or Daniel Harris between 1715 and 1724, mentioned elsewhere in these pages in the story of the Pigeon Hill Farm, stood on this land about 25 feet north of the present 131 Granite Street.

129-139. Lurvey immediately built the present 139 Granite Street, and on October 3, 1809, he sold a half interest in the remainder of the property to Zebulon Lufkin, mariner, for \$300. Lufkin then built himself a house which is the present 129 Granite Street. Four years later, January 8, 1813, Lurvey and Lufkin sold to John and William Fears for \$300 all the land from 131 to 135 Granite Street, both included, on which stood the old Harris house. This land did not run through to the sea. On the same date as that in the deed to Fears, Lurvey quitclaimed to Lufkin everything that remained, from the line between 135 and 137 south to include Lufkin's house site, and thence to the sea, excepting what had been conveyed to the Fears brothers.

Zebulon Lufkin had married Betsey Fears November 15, 1807. She was a sister of John and William, of Nathaniel of 121 Granite Street, of Anna, Mrs. Abraham Lurvey, and of Sally, Mrs. Gustavus Norwood, Jr., of 90 Granite Street. John and William presumably lived in the old Harris house until 1829, when they divided the property, William taking the southern end, where he built the present house at 131 Granite Street, and John built the present 135. As already stated Abraham Lurvey had built 139 Granite Street when he first bought the land in 1805. When he and Lufkin sold the piece to Fears, Lurvey retained for himself the land at 137. This was later sold to George Robinson, mariner, who sold, January 10, 1824, to Captain Daniel Wheeler for \$40, who in turn conveyed in 1832 to Colburn and Eames, who quarried the seaward end, and built the present house on the street front which they sold to John Harris December 3, 1836. The deed stated that Harris was then living there.

96. Ezra Eames built this house, on the westerly side of the street opposite number 129, for his own occupancy in 1840. He was then 39 years old and had been successfully engaged in the quarry business with his brother-in-law, Beniah Colburn, for about a dozen years. He had married Miriam Reed Colburn at Lowell December 29, 1836. In 1837 he bought half of the house, 131 Granite Street, from William Fears, and his sons, Ezra Willard and Isaac Melvin, were born there in 1838 and 1839. His three daughters were all born in the new house at number 96, the first



one April 28, 1841. This house, in the so-called Greek revival style of architecture, was by far the finest residential structure in the village.

141. Abraham Lurvey's house site was at the northern boundary of the Pigeon Hill Farm, on the easterly side of the street, and adjoined the Old Castle farm at the time when he bought. Five years later, April 19, 1810, Benjamin Wheeler, Jr., of The Old Castle sold the house lot, 141 Granite Street, to James Harris, mariner, for \$40. This was the first piece of the old farm to be sold out of the Wheeler family since the days of its first settler, Jethro, back in 1723 when 3½ acres were sold to Richard Langsford. The house built by Harris in 1810 still stands, though considerably altered.

143-155. This piece of land, on the seaward side of the street, was a part of the Old Castle farm and was known in the Wheeler family as "the little pasture." The Federated Church stands on its northern end. On the street frontage between 143 and 151 a ledge rose abruptly from the roadside to a height, it has been stated, of about 30 feet, and extended through to the sea, even on the eastern side of the Harris house at 141. Between 1829 and 1833 this pasture was bought by Colburn and Eames, and the ledge quarried out to the level of the tide. None of the present houses were built until after 1840.

100. This house began its existence as an ox barn that had originally stood somewhere near Pigeon Cove. It seems probable that it was moved to this site about 1850.

102. The present cottage is the District 9 South School House moved to this site from its original location at 88 Granite Street after 1869.

106-108. Charles Knowlton and Joseph Whittredge built the present double house on the westerly side of the street about 1839 for their own occupancy. In 1834 they bought from William Torrey a strip 370 feet wide on Granite Street. The northerly

end of this piece was at the boundary between the Pigeon Hill and Old Castle farms. In 1837 they bought from Captain Daniel Wheeler a piece next north with ninety feet of frontage. For the most part the house stands on the latter piece, but its southerly end laps over on to the Rowe farm side of the old line. It is of interest to note that, as late as 1791 at least, a gate was maintained across the road at this boundary by the Wheeler family. When Captain Daniel was deeded that land by his father in 1791 one of his boundaries was given as the "Pigeon Hill gate." William Torrey was one of the earliest of the quarry operators already referred to. He bought the larger lot from the Rowes in April 1831. It is presumed that he removed some of the ledge that was on the sites of 100 and 102 Granite Street before he sold the land to Knowlton and Whittredge in 1834. A subsequent owner also quarried there. This must have been a noisy neighborhood between 1829 and 1833 with quarrying on both sides of the street. Mr. Knowlton married Mary Wheeler Tuttle, a niece of Mrs. Daniel Wheeler of the tavern. Mr. Whittredge married Mrs. Knowlton's older sister, Phebe Tuttle. The two families occupied number 106-108, the Whittredges in the northern half, the Knowltons on the south. Each family had its own stairway to the second floor, but, although located in the same stairwell, these stairs were not separated by a partition. Later this house acquired yet another connection with the Wheeler family through the marriage of Stephen Hale and Amelia Wheeler, a daughter of Moses of The Garrison House. One of their sons, Thomas Hale, married Lucy, a daughter of Charles Knowlton, June 7, 1847. She, incidentally, had been born at the Wheeler Tavern, where the Knowltons lived before 106-108 Granite Street was built. Eventually the house came into the ownership of the Hale family, and has long been known as the Hale Homestead.

110. Captain Daniel Wheeler sold this lot, 60 feet wide on the westerly side of the street, to William Tarr, Jr., trader, sometimes known as 4<sup>th</sup>, February 20, 1837, for \$150. Tarr held the lot until December 11, 1843, when he sold it to David Humphrey and Charles S. Dudley, both of Boston, for \$1,221, with "buildings thereon." The present house was built, therefore, between



1837 and 1843. March 25, 1845, they sold the property to Charles Knowlton for \$825. It was later bought by Jabez W. Kendall, Jr.

120. Peter Woodbury, Jr., grandson of Andrew, Jr., of 69 Curtis Street, built this house, on the westerly side of the street, about 1829. He had married Anna Wheeler, a daughter of John Dane Wheeler of The Old Castle, September 9, 1819, and they had lived at The Castle until after her death December 6, 1823. Peter married Mehitable Dodge April 5, 1825, and may have continued to live at The Castle, for he had two young sons by Anna. John Dane Wheeler had died in 1803 owning the land fronting on Granite Street from 120 to and including Story Street. Title to this was inherited by his four children, of whom Mrs. Peter Woodbury was one. The others were boys, one of whom died in 1819. In 1829 Peter Woodbury, who had inherited his first wife's share, bought out the interests of her two remaining brothers. It would appear that he then built the present house at number 120. He continued to live there until his death in 1867.

159-161. This picturesque group of buildings on the easterly side of the street, locally known as "the house of seven gables," had its beginning in 1791, and is, therefore, second only to The Old Castle in that neighborhood in point of antiquity. The gambrel-roofed section next the street is the oldest portion. In May, 1791, Benjamin Wheeler, Jr., of The Old Castle, deeded small street front lots to his sons, Samuel, Jonathan, John Dane, and Daniel. It would appear that 159, Jonathan's house, had already been built on his land, for Samuel's lot was described as beginning at Jonathan's west corner by the highway, 2 rods from the corner of Jonathan's house. That is the present corner between numbers 161 and 163, and it is two rods distant from the nearest corner of the "jut-by" of the gambrel-roofed house. Jonathan married Judith Dennison November 27, 1791. He died in 1795, and the inventory of his estate, filed the following February, lists his house as "new, incomplete." Its value, with  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre of land, was given as \$400. That word "incomplete" possibly indicates that he was putting on an addition, perhaps the portion now numbered 161. He left three children, Daniel Stan-

wood, born September 12, 1792, who served in the War of 1812 on the *U. S. S. Wasp*, and died in 1816; Judith, born April 9, 1794, who married Thomas Parsons June 20, 1817; and Benjamin, born 1795 (no record), who married Polly Hodgkins October 3, 1813. The Parsons family lived in the northerly portion of the house for many years. The large addition on the southern side is said to have been built by Benjamin. The house now number 157 Granite Street was Benjamin's barn. It was moved from its original location in the rear within recent years and remodeled as a dwelling.

163. The northerly portion of the present house was built by Samuel Wheeler, fisherman, about 1792. Some sixty years ago it was doubled in size by a grand daughter, Sarah Dean Knowlton, Mrs. Thomas Mason. Those who remember the old house state that it was like the one now numbered 165 Granite Street. Samuel married Betsey Tarr in November 1784, seven years before his father deeded him this lot. Their children were Betsey, born 1785, married James Harris, Jr., May 26, 1805; Sally Dean, baptized November 23, 1787, and died April 29, 1806; Patty, baptized August 22, 1790 (no further record); Rhoda, born 1795, married William Fears December 12, 1815; Lydia, born 1796, married Jabez Woodbury Kendall March 31, 1817; Samuel, born 1797, married first Lucy Woodbury 1822, second Amelia Woodbury 1827, third Mary Tarr 1834; Epes, born June 5, 1800, married Rebecca Woodbury January 28, 1827; David, born 1803, married first Caroline Woodbury 1824, second Mary Lurvey; Martha, born 1805, married Washington Knowlton March 11, 1832. Mrs. Thomas Mason mentioned above was their daughter. Mrs. Samuel Wheeler died in January 1843. Samuel died February 21, 1849.

165. On December 10, 1833, Samuel Wheeler for \$20 conveyed this lot, 30 feet wide on the street, to his son-in-law Jabez W. Kendall, fisherman, as "the land on which his dwelling house stands." Inasmuch as Kendall had married Lydia Wheeler in 1817 it is just possible that this house may date back to about that year, and that title was not given until full payment had been made. This was a not uncommon practice.



128-130. In addition to his house site at 163 Samuel had been deeded a piece of meadow on the opposite side of the street. This extended from Peter Woodbury's boundary, which was the north side of Story Street, to Curtis Street. Samuel's barn stood close to Story Street at the Granite Street end. Story Street and Curtis Street did not exist at that time. On December 9, 1833, Samuel deeded this land to his three sons, Samuel junior, Epes and David. The deed refers to David's house as already built on the lot. This house still stands at 130 Granite Street. Epes had married in 1827, and in 1834, Samuel junior married his third wife. No record has been found to show that Samuel junior and Epes jointly built 128 Granite Street, but it is stated by members of the family that they lived there. It is quite possible that the house was built in 1834.

167. The house now standing on this land, on the easterly side of the street, was the village tavern from about 1805 to about 1850, perhaps later, but eventually it was used as a boarding house for quarry workmen. The house was built by Daniel Wheeler, the youngest son of Benjamin Wheeler, Jr., of The Old Castle. Daniel had married Mary (Polly) Whittredge of Wenham December 15, 1796. In 1802 his father deeded him the eastern half of The Old Castle, but subject to the life estate of his father and mother. Then, on September 5, 1804, his father deeded Daniel "a house lot" next north of his brother Samuel's land, and 85 feet wide on the easterly side of the street. Daniel at that time was referred to in legal papers as a fisherman. It is altogether likely that he built the "tavern house," as it was called, in 1805, and thereafter he was referred to as an inn keeper. It was not long, however, before he was generally spoken of as Captain Wheeler, for in 1809 he became the commanding officer of the local militia. He had probably been an active member of the infantry company for some time when, on October 14, 1806, he was commissioned Ensign by Governor Strong. The following year Governor Sullivan made him a Lieutenant, and on November 23, 1809, Governor Gore advanced him to Captain, the commission stating that he had been duly elected by the company on October 14. His company was attached to the Second Regiment,

First Brigade, Second Division. The three commissions are now in the possession of a descendant.

Captain Wheeler had no children of his own, but adopted two boys, one a nephew, the other a grand nephew of Mrs. Wheeler. The surname of both was Tuttle, and both had been named Daniel after Captain Wheeler, who seems to have been a great favorite in his wife's family. The older boy was a son of Mrs. Wheeler's sister Phebe, Mrs. Simon Tuttle senior, of Wenham. He was baptized in 1806 and was adopted in 1820. The younger boy was a son of Simon Tuttle, Jr., of Wenham, and was born in 1818. The date of his adoption is not a matter of record. The older boy took Wheeler as his middle name, but was always known as Daniel W. Tuttle. The younger one, however, was known as Daniel Wheeler, Jr. Simon Tuttle senior had also two daughters, and they too lived with the Wheelers at the tavern. Phebe, the elder daughter, married Joseph Whitredge, and Mary, the younger one, married Charles Knowlton. Their husbands built 106-108 Granite Street.

In 1838 Captain Wheeler retired from the tavern business and built for his own occupancy the house now standing on the westerly side of Old Castle Lane. Either at this time or earlier he built another house opposite his own, and directly in front of The Old Castle, for his oldest adopted son, Daniel W. Tuttle. That house has since been moved and stands next the western end of The Old Castle. On April 1, 1838, the Captain rented the tavern to William Norwood, by whom it was managed until about 1846. It was about that time when Mr. Norwood opened his own house to summer visitors under the style of the Pigeon Cove House. The site of the latter is now a vacant lot between 223 and 229 Granite Street. Captain Daniel's wife died August 1, 1840, and he died August 21, 1842. Daniel Wheeler, Jr., inherited the Captain's dwelling and the tavern. The latter he sold, December 3, 1846, to Nathaniel Wheeler Woodbury, the elder son of Peter Woodbury, Jr. Mr. Woodbury was a housewright, and it is doubtful if he personally managed the tavern at any time. Not many years later he moved to South Danvers, now Peabody, and later to Beverly, but he continued to own the tavern until about a year before his death, which was in 1890.



Soon after Mr. Norwood took charge at the tavern it became a popular resort in summer for a number of distinguished people from Boston, New York and elsewhere. Among those early sojourners were Richard Henry Dana of Cambridge, poet and essayist, and father of the author of the famous "Two Years Before the Mast," and Edward H. Brackett, a young sculptor from Boston. Both of these men boarded at the tavern. At the same time William Cullen Bryant, poet, boarded at The Garrison House, and it is related that Mr. Brackett prevailed upon Mr. Bryant to sit for a bust, which work was executed, probably in 1842 or 1843, in the northwest first floor room of the tavern, now used as a bakery. Among Mr. Brackett's papers a letter from Bryant, dated December 1844, has lately been found, in which was enclosed the final payment for the bust. It is to be regretted that the house Register of those days has not been preserved, for it doubtless contained the signatures of a considerable number of celebrities.

Until within quite recent days a huge elm tree stood by the entrance door of the tavern. It stood about abreast of the present traffic beacon, with just enough room between it and the front steps to allow the Gloucester stage to drive between.

THE Old Castle, now the Community House owned by the Village Improvement Society, and located on Old Castle Lane, was built by Jethro Wheeler about 1713. (See Chapter: Jethro Wheeler.)

171. This was originally the site of the barn of Benjamin Wheeler, Jr. When Daniel Wheeler was deeded the tavern lot in 1804 his father described it as lying between the house of his son Samuel (number 163) and his own barn. The distance on Daniel's street frontage brought his land almost to the house now number 171. Later that property was owned by Peter Woodbury, Jr., and he either altered the barn over into a store with an assembly room overhead, or built anew on the site. The Union Store, as it was called, was subsequently converted into the present dwelling.

138. The house now occupied by the Pigeon Cove branch of the Public Library, on the westerly side of the street, has every appearance of being somewhat older than it is. The land was a part of the Old Castle farm and in 1838 it was owned by Peter Woodbury, Jr., who sold it that year to Reuben Smith of Topsfield for \$100. Smith died and his heirs sold it, April 9, 1845, to John J. Gould of Wenham for \$450. No buildings were mentioned in either of the two foregoing deeds. Gould sold it, March 28, 1846, to Joseph Witham of Rockport as land and buildings for \$600 and a mortgage for \$400.

144. This lot, on which is located the office building of the Cape Ann Tool Company, is interesting historically for the reason that the line between the lots of 1688 numbered 53 and 54 cornered on the beach at a point which is now a few feet south of the concrete driveway. It was there that the basswood tree stood which was referred to as a boundary mark in the grant of the 1688 lots, and in the deed of the Old Castle farm to Jethro Wheeler in 1712. The location of this corner has been arrived at by scaling on the County Engineer's plan of Granite Street, which is drawn to a scale of 40 feet to one inch, the distances across the street frontages of the Garrison House and Old Castle farms, as given in the relocation of Granite Street made in 1792. (See Chapter: The Earliest Highways; Halibut Point to Sandy Bay Brook.) Happily the southern boundary of the Old Castle farm exists today as the line between 139 and 141 Granite Street. The northerly line of the Garrison House farm where it crosses Granite Street is not quite so definite today, but it is approximately at the southerly corner of Curtis Street. Taking the existing wall at 139-141 Granite Street as a point of departure and scaling northerly on the County plan the distance given in the 1792 road layout, 1,254 feet, the basswood corner is fairly definitely located. Scaling thence northerly along the westerly side of the street, 2,821.5 feet, the distance given in the road layout for the frontage of the Garrison House farm, the point arrived at is close to the Curtis Street corner.

A further check upon the location of the basswood corner was made possible through a plan found in the files of the Gloucester



City Engineer. This plan, drawn to a scale of 50 feet to one inch, was made by Calvin W. Pool in 1881. It covers the properties on the westerly side of Granite Street from opposite Breakwater Avenue south to 142 Granite Street and shows the boundaries of the various parcels back for about 300 feet. Several of those lines are recognizable on the ground today in existing old stone walls. One of those walls was the boundary between the Garrison House and Old Castle farms. Although the plan did not show this wall as coming down to a junction with the street, it did show a point at the street line marked "stone post" which is in line with the axis of the wall. Some of the property lines shown on the Pool plan are found also on the later County plan, and it is therefore possible to locate the site of the stone post on the latter. Its position coincides with the presumed location of the basswood corner arrived at as stated above. It seems likely that this post may have been set at some time, probably before the two farms were cut up and sold, and after the tree had disappeared, to define that ancient corner.

The Garrison House farm began at the basswood tree at the edge of the Pigeon Cove harbor beach and extended northerly up the hill to Curtis Street. Incidentally that slope of Granite Street has long been known locally as Powzle Hill, but the origin of that name is unknown, and no mention of it in any of the numerous deeds examined has been found. The spelling used here is a phonetic reproduction of the pronunciation commonly in use at the present time.

After the death of Moses Wheeler in 1824 the farm was divided among the three surviving sons, Austin, Charles and John Woodbury Wheeler, subject, however, to their mother's dower rights. Moses Wheeler's will provided that all the real estate, the live stock, the farm equipment, and the house furnishings should go to the widow for life, but that at her death the real estate should be divided equally between the sons John W. and Austin. The son Charles and the eight daughters were given \$50 apiece, and a like sum was to be divided among the children of a deceased son, Moses. The real estate was inventoried for probate at \$3,310.

Charles may have objected to being thus cut off with a pocket piece. At all events on November 15, 1825, John and Austin,

their mother agreeing, deeded a one-third interest in all the real estate to Charles, he to relinquish his \$50 legacy, and, in 1833, exchanged deeds dividing the property among themselves. The Garrison House itself came into the possession of John W. according to a deed that he gave to Elijah Edmands to whom he sold the homestead in 1848. After the division of 1833 the sons began selling house lots along the Granite Street frontages.

154. For well over a century there has been a store on this site. A deed of November 5, 1833, from John and Austin to Charles mentions this site as "the store lot of William Norwood and David Babson." The following spring Moses' widow and the three sons deeded this lot to Mrs. William Norwood (Susanna Wheeler). This southwest corner of the farm was referred to in the deeds of that period as "the western barley stubble." It will be recalled that there was a barley stubble piece on the Rowe farm (123 Granite Street). Norwood and Babson were sons-in-law of Moses Wheeler. They were partners in the fish business from before 1800, perhaps here. From 1838 until about 1846 Norwood also managed the village tavern, and subsequently opened his dwelling house, farther up the hill (225 Granite Street, now a vacant lot), as the Pigeon Cove House. The store later was the market of Austin W. Story and from December 4, 1858, to May 18, 1897, the local post office was located there.

158. This house and barn were mentioned in a deed of November 5, 1833, as belonging to John W. Wheeler. It stood on a part of the barley stubble lot and had probably been built by this son of Moses but a short time before. On June 22, 1836, he sold this house, together with its land, 118 feet wide on the street and 80 to 93 feet deep, to Horatio Babson, a son of David. The price named in the deed was \$1,000. In 1857 Babson sold to William Marchant, who opened a wood and coal yard, a business which has been continued there to the present time. Marchant was previously of Folly Cove.

170½. Philander Currier, son of Moses and Thomasine (York), bought this lot July 8, 1837, 69 feet wide on the street and 123



feet deep, and it is presumed that he built the present house at about that time. He had previously lived on the Lane-Marchant farm at Folly Cove.

176. This lot, 60 feet wide on the street and 132 feet deep, was bought by Daniel Sanborn December 19, 1832. The house was probably built the following year.

182-184. This land, 248 feet wide on the street and 181 feet deep, was bought by Jesse Tay, trader, December 20, 1824, from the widow of Moses Wheeler. Three years later her sons gave Tay a confirmatory deed. It would appear that Moses Wheeler must have agreed, before his death in November 1824, to sell this land to Tay, for the latter had some kind of a shop on the street frontage in 1823, as is shown on the plan of the road made by Jabez R. Gott in that year. Tay married Charlotte Duly August 10, 1828. He built a stone house close to the line between 180 and 182. He sold the entire property to David Holbrook April 22, 1831. The southerly end of the lot with the house was subsequently sold, 1853, to Epes Young, Jr. The stone house was later demolished.

182½. That part of the present house above the high basement story was moved to this site some years ago by Mrs. David Clifford Babson, from 265 Granite Street. It was the house built by Samuel Gott, Jr. (See chapter: Samuel Gott And His Sons.)

188. The Garrison House. (See chapter: Joshua Norwood.)

196. Moses Wheeler, Jr., a grandson of Moses of The Garrison House, bought this lot February 17, 1832, and built the house. His wife was Amelia Tarr.

200. Amelia Wheeler, a daughter of The Garrison House Moses, married Stephen Hale December 12, 1816. This lot was deeded to her April 7, 1831, by her mother and brothers, but it is possible that the house was built about the time of her marriage.

This completes the list of the earlier houses on the westerly side of Granite Street as far as the top of Sunset Hill. The record of the houses on the easterly side follows:

At the corner of Granite Street and Breakwater Avenue there is a cellar where a house, known as the William Fears, Jr., house, stood until its demolition within recent years. It faced on Breakwater Avenue. Moses Wheeler's sons built this house for sale in 1833. The purchaser was William Fears senior who owned it at the time of his death in 1848, though he had not lived there. It then became the property of his son, William junior who lived there until his death in 1872. Floor plans of the house are filed at Salem with the settlement of his estate (Probate Records, Vol. 427, p. 634). The first Pigeon Cove Post Office was located in this house from July 31 to December 4, 1858. On the latter date it was moved to Austin W. Story's store on the opposite side of the street.

ON BREAKWATER AVENUE the house next east of the Fears house was built by Isaac Lurvey in 1840. The house next east of that was built by Ebenezer Cleaves between 1833 and 1834. Cleaves sold to Moses H. Marshall in January 1835, he to Levi B. Sanborn in January 1836, and he to Zebulon junior and Gorham Lufkin three years later. The house is still occupied by a member of the Lufkin family.

Continuing up the easterly side of GRANITE STREET:

209. Eliza Wheeler, a daughter of Moses of The Garrison House, married Captain Amos Story, December 1, 1825. Eleven years later, November 26, 1836, her mother and her brother John W. deeded her this lot, 179 feet wide on the street. The house was almost certainly built as early as 1837.

223-225. Susanna Wheeler, the eldest child of Moses Wheeler of The Garrison House, married William Norwood December 11, 1795. On December 24, 1805, Moses Wheeler deeded this land, 264 feet wide on the street, to his son-in-law. Mr. Norwood was



associated in the fish business at the Cove with his brother-in-law and next door neighbor, David Babson, and for a time operated the tavern at the Cove. In 1846 the Norwoods opened their house to summer visitors, subsequently enlarging it to the proportions of a small hotel called The Pigeon Cove House. Mrs. Norwood sold to Mrs. E. S. Robinson in 1866. The latter moved the old structure in 1871 to the site of The Hotel Edward, of which it is still a part, and built a larger hotel on the old site. That house was burned and the lot is now vacant.

231. Charlotte Wheeler, another daughter of Moses of The Garrison House, married David Babson August 25, 1800. On March 10, 1802, Moses deeded to this son-in-law a lot 290 feet wide on the street. It is presumed that the house was built about that time.

255. The house of William Andrews senior, presumed to have been built about 1711, stood on this land, now a vacant lot. It was bought by Moses Wheeler from the Andrews heirs and sold by him to his brother Joseph Wheeler in 1783. Moses purchased it from Joseph's estate in 1797 and the deed stated that it was where William Andrews' dwelling house formerly stood. Nehemiah Knowlton bought the land from the heirs of Moses Wheeler. (See Chapter: William Andrews.)

Crossing the street to the westerly side there is a house just north of Curtis Street which is numbered

212. The exact origin of this house is not known. Its site was a part of the William Woodberry farm, later owned by William Norwood, who married Mr. Woodberry's daughter. In 1771 the Norwoods deeded the westerly half of the farm to their son James, who had married that year. (See Chapter: William Woodberry.) It is possible that he built this house at that time for his own occupancy. The first record of the house is found in a deed from James Norwood's son-in-law, James Gooch, when he sold it to James Story, Jr., September 17, 1816, for \$400. James Norwood had died in 1814. Mr. Story had married Lucy Sargent in 1813 and the family lived there for the remainder of their lives.

Returning to the easterly side of the street opposite the James Story, Jr., place, and next north of the William Andrews site, is 259. This house lot was formerly a part of the Samuel Gott, Jr., farm which extended northerly along the street to include 269. (See chapter: Samuel Gott And His Sons.) Levi Bailey, a son of Joseph senior, bought this lot from his brother Joseph junior and built the present house in 1830. That same year he sold to David junior and Gorham Babson, sons of David senior, who in turn sold to Michael Walen in 1835. The Walen family lived there for many years, and later the Matheson family.

265. This is now a vacant lot with the cellar walls of the house built by Samuel Gott, Jr., between 1723 and 1748. House moved in recent years to 182½ Granite Street. Latest owner and occupant on the original site was Andrew Bailey, son of Joseph senior.

269. The present-day house stands on the site of a barn built by Joseph Wheeler in 1790.

275. The existing story and a half house was built originally by John Blatchford about 1771 on the Path From Sandy Bay to Jumper's. It was moved to the Granite Street site by Joseph Bailey senior about 1804 and occupied by him, and later by his son William. It stands on the site of the Daniel Gott house built about 1726. (See Chapters: Samuel Gott and His Sons, and The Woods Settlements.)

277. Built by Levi Bailey, son of Joseph senior, probably about 1828, for his own occupancy. He married first in 1826 and bought this lot from his father two years later.

281. This site was a part of Daniel Gott's farm. He sold this portion to his neighbor William Norwood, 511 feet on Granite Street, and 347 feet on Gott Avenue, January 5, 1762. The earliest reference to the existing house is found in a deed from James Norwood, son of William, when he sold, March 10, 1795, to his sister-in-law, Esther (Norwood), widow of Captain Nathaniel



Parsons senior, "the land whereon the said Esther's house stands." Captain Parsons and Esther Norwood, a daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Davis) Norwood, were married October 8, 1761. This house descended to Nathaniel Parsons, Jr., who married Susanna Norwood, daughter of Gustavus and Abigail. Nathaniel junior died November 7, 1823, and the property was conveyed to his wife's sister, Mary (Norwood) Baker, widow of Joseph. Mrs. Baker sold to John Story, son of James senior, October 13, 1832, and the following year Mr. Story bought the dower rights in the property from Mrs. Parsons. Mr. Story lived there until his death in 1887 and the property is still owned by his heirs. Mr. Story married Abigail Walen, daughter of Michael, November 14, 1822. They had six sons and three daughters. Mr. Story married second Martha Woodbury Hovey, and third Mary A. Saunders. He was in the military service in the war of 1812.

291. There has been a house on this site since 1705 when the farm was settled upon by Captain William Woodberry, a wheelwright from Beverly. He died in 1713, leaving a widow and an only daughter, Judith. The latter married William Norwood in 1732. They lived here during their lives. William Norwood died in 1781 and was succeeded by his son James, who continued there until his death in 1814. His daughter Harriet, Mrs. James Gooch, inherited the property but sold it in 1820 to David Babson, and it remained in that family until within recent years. The date of the present house is unknown. It may have been built originally by the Norwoods. If so it was considerably altered by the Babson family. (See chapter: William Woodberry.)

At the extreme northerly end of Granite Street, near the Gloucester boundary line at Folly Cove, there are five houses which date from about 1722 to 1843. They are on the farm settled by Samuel Lane senior which came into the Marchant family in 1770. (See chapter: Samuel Lane.) The house built about 1843 by William Marchant is the one now the second east of the town line. As no houses built after 1840 are shown on the accompanying map, this one has been omitted there.

## GOTT AVENUE

THERE are but two houses on this short dead end street. At its easterly end is the gambrel-roofed house built by Samuel Gott at the time of his settlement here in 1702. Samuel died in 1748 and the house descended to his sons Benjamin and Joseph. The latter acquired his brother's portion and at his death in 1755 his son Joshua succeeded. This was Lieutenant Joshua of the Continental Army. He died in 1846 and his son Captain Joshua junior inherited the house, and his grandson, Kenneth McClellan, now lives there. (See chapter: Samuel Gott And His Sons.)

## CURTIS STREET

33, rear of. The origin of this house is not known. It was built on a piece of the Garrison House farm before 1833 when it was first mentioned in a deed to Charles Wheeler, son of Moses. The deed stated that it was then occupied by Solomon Knights. Three years later it was conveyed by Wheeler to John and Thomas Knights.

46, rear of. Built by Benjamin Stockbridge in 1756. (See chapter: The Woods Settlements.)

64. Site of the house built by James Story senior in 1790.

63. The house standing close to the street, opposite number 64, is presumed to be the one built by Job Knights before 1794 in which year he bought the land, half an acre, from Moses Wheeler. (See chapter: The Woods Settlements.)

69. Probably built by Andrew Woodbury, Jr., who died there before 1790. It stands on a part of the old William Woodberry farm that was deeded to the latter's grandson, James Norwood, in 1771. No deed to Andrew Woodbury, Jr., has been found. (See chapter: The Woods Settlements.)



78. This house had its beginning as the first school house at Pigeon Cove. The land was given by James Norwood about 1797 according to tradition. The deed does not appear to have been recorded at Salem or with the Gloucester town clerk. (See chapter: The Woods Settlements.) The first schoolmaster was Stephen Knutsford senior, who died December 29, 1807. James Gooch was the master in 1814, and perhaps earlier.

#### STOCKHOLM AVENUE

THE house located in the valley, on the east bank of the Norwood Mill Brook, and reached by a roadway leading from Stockholm Avenue near Curtis Street, was presumably the one built by Stephen Gott, Jr., in 1756. It was bought in 1810 by Thomas Knutsford as a home for his brothers Stephen and William and his sister Susanna (Sukey). Thomas made formal transfer to his brothers by deed in 1831. (See chapter: The Woods Settlements.)

#### PIGEON HILL STREET

21. Built by Isaac Dade in 1833. The land was formerly a part of the Old Castle farm. The street was merely a cart road in 1833 and was known as "the road to the sheep pasture."

36. This is the presumed site of the Richard Langsford house built about 1719 at the time of Langsford's marriage to Mary Row, a daughter of Hugh. Judging from a deed of 1834 the house was then owned by Captain Daniel Wheeler of the tavern, and was occupied by Josiah Witham as a tenant. (See chapter: The Woods Settlements.) The easterly end of the existing house is thought to be the original structure.

## MAP LEGEND

THE BOUNDARIES of the earliest Pigeon Cove farms as shown on the map are based upon a careful study of deeds and probate records, upon G. M. Hopkins' *Atlas of Gloucester and Rockport*, published in 1884, in which many of the original lines are recognizable, and upon a survey of the Pigeon Hill farm made by William Saville in 1794, a copy of which is in the collections of the Sandy Bay Historical Society.

It has not been possible to determine the lines of the farms on the Lanesville side of the town line, owing to the vagueness of the early deeds covering that section. From the town line at Folly Cove south to the parish line the various farm boundaries are regarded as being substantially correct. The less definite lines are drawn with dashes.

The highways on the map follow the lines of the original layouts, and are as at present except for three straightenings on Granite Street, made within recent times, in the vicinity of Folly Cove. The by-paths, such as "the path from Sandy Bay to Jumper's," now Woodbury Street at its northern end and Squam Hill Road at its southern end, and the "path into the woods," now the northern end of Curtis Street and thence around the westerly side of Pigeon Hill, have been compiled from old maps and plans.

The coast line as shown from Pigeon Cove harbor southward is in accordance with the Saville plan of 1794 of the Pigeon Hill farm, the plan of the road around the cape made by Jabez R. Gott in 1823 (now in the City Engineer's office, Gloucester), and a plan of Pigeon Cove harbor drawn by William Pool in 1838 (now in the collections of the Village Improvement Society of Pigeon Cove).

The houses shown along the street frontages are those that existed when the Town of Rockport was incorporated in 1840, so far as can be determined from the deeds. Where an early house or one standing in 1840 has been removed, its site is indicated by a hollow square.

To enable the reader to connect the ancient lines with modern conditions the streets built since 1840 are shown in undertone.

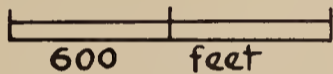
The location of the Annisquam Parish line, established by the General Court in 1728, has been plotted from a plan of the original First Parish made by Josiah Batchelder May 30, 1741, the original of which is in the Massachusetts Archives at the State House, Boston, as number 576 of Maps & Plans. Owing to the scale of that plan, 100 rods (1,650 feet) to an inch, it is impossible to accurately plot the intersection of the parish line with Granite Street. A brief note in an historical manuscript written by the late Calvin W. Pool in 1867 reads, "The parish line from the west passed the large stone boarding house near it and thence to the seashore." The stone house is now numbered 87 Granite Street. Assuming that the easterly end of the line lay on the promontory, formerly known as Rowe's Point, which is now incorporated in the jetty built by the Rockport Granite Company, the line would cross Granite Street close to the quarry bridge.

The two dams and mill foundations on the Norwood Mill Brook are of unknown date and origin. They are on the farm of William Woodberry, later owned by William Norwood and his son James, by the latter's daughter Harriet, Mrs. James Gooch, and, after 1820, by David Babson. Not so much as an incidental mention of them has been found in any deed or probate inventory connected with that property. A deed of 1828 covering the property west of the brook locates the upper one as "the milldam." The stream was referred to in a deed of September 3, 1790, as "James Norwood's mill brook formerly his father's, William Norwood." Similarly the dam on the small tributary of that brook is of unknown origin. It once held a shallow pond, now a cattail swamp, on the north side of Curtis Street on land once owned by the Norwoods. In the "sea wall" on the Halibut Point public reservation north of the Gott house, there is a partially completed mill stone of standard proportions. Why it was abandoned before completion is a subject for conjecture. Possibly it was intended for use in one of the mills.



# HISTORICAL MAP of PIGEON COVE ROCKPORT - MASS.

Compiled by Allen Chamberlain  
1940



Hoop Pole Cove



Wm Andrews'  
"old garden"

Andrews  
Point

## EARLIEST HOUSES, ROADS & PATHS

Houses Standing in 1840 ■

Other Early Sites □

Streets Built Since 1840

Shown in Undertone.

Copyright by Allen Chamberlain 1940

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